

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATH.

At his brother's residence, Canton, on the 18th instant, CHUN LEY KUM, of Hongkong, late of Melbourne, Australia, and Straits Settlements, aged 60 years.

Melbourne and Straits Settlements papers please copy.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The French mail of the 20th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Indus*, on the 19th May (29 days); the American mail of the 25th April arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 24th May (29 days); and the English mail of the 27th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Clyde*, on the 25th May (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. J. Patrick, assistant Inspector of Schools, Perak, died in Penang Hospital, recently.

Among the departures from Hongkong by the *Japan* on the 24th instant were the paid off crews of H.M.S. *Whiting* and *Fame*.

A Seoul telegram states that Mr. Gubbins, the newly appointed British Minister to Corea, arrived at the Corean capital on Sunday, the 13th instant.

Sir Claude Macdonald is steadily improving in health. He returned to the capital more than a fortnight ago and has fully resumed his official duties.

The torpedo-boat destroyer *Fame* sailed from Hongkong for Weihaiwei on the 20th instant. H. M. S. *Orlando* left the harbour on the 22nd instant, also for Weihaiwei.

THE Shanghai Taotai has just done a graceful act, which will be generally appreciated by foreigners, in making a personal contribution of Tls. 1,000 to the Indian Famine Fund.

Tan, Ex-viceroy at Canton, and Viceroy Sun of Yun-kwei, who have been stopping in Shanghai for some time, left on the 15th inst. in the China Merchants' steamer *Haeen* for Peking.

The Secretary of State has made his consent to the formation of a Singapore Rifle Corps conditional to its not interfering with the recruiting for the Singapore Volunteer Artillery.

It is reported from Peking that wild reports and rumours are being circulated in the city, and placards have been posted not far from the Legations, while well-poisoning stories are also current.

It is reported that the greater part of the Russian Asiatic Squadron is now lying at Port Arthur. These vessels are expected to proceed northward before the end of next month, to spend the summer at Vladivostok.

The U.S. flagship *Baltimore*, with Rear-Admiral J. C. Watson on board, arrived at Hongkong on the 18th instant, from Woosung. The *Baltimore* left for the United States on the 23rd May, going by way of the Suez Canal.

A despatch from the Secretary of State was laid before the Singapore Legislative Council on the 15th inst., expressing the opinion that the Governor of the Straits Settlements should be paid a salary equivalent to £5,000 sterling in future.

The Peking Derby on the 5th inst. (Peking Spring Meeting) was won by Messrs. E. de Cartier's and Wihlfahrt's Battery Wheeler, Sir Claude Macdonald's Hazard being second. The Champion Stakes on the same day were also carried off by the joint owners' horse.

A Calcutta paper has the following telegram from its London correspondent:—The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the proposal that Civil Officers shall in future count the greater amount of leave as pensionable services; also an increase of appointments eligible for an additional pension of Rs.1,000.

H.E. Sheng, Director-General of the Lu-Han Railway, etc., returned to Shanghai from Peking on the 16th inst., accompanied by a large suite, numbering eighty-two persons. It is reported that H.E.'s stay in Peking for the last six months was not only an expensive one, but that he has lost some of his former influence there.

The Japanese Government has instructed the local Governments not to give passports for labourers going to Hawaii under any circumstances till further notice. The immigration question as regards Hawaii requires (a Japanese paper remarks) the consideration of the Japanese authorities prior to the new Hawaiian Bill coming into operation. The Japanese Immigration Companies are making urgent complaints over the instruction.

With reference to a report in a Boston paper that Aguinaldo was in Singapore, that he had been interviewed there and that he had announced to the *Straits Times* his intention of returning to Manila, the Singapore journal says:—"We do not say that Aguinaldo is not, or was not, in Singapore, but we are quite sure that he has not had communication with the *Straits Times*, nor has any *Straits Times* representative interviewed him."

According to a Seoul telegram received by the Japanese authorities, all the demands for mining concessions preferred lately by the United States and French Ministers at Seoul have been rejected by the Corean Government. It appears that Japan's claim for the concession of the Chokusan gold mine has also been refused.

It is stated that the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who recently issued an instruction to the Governors of the various cities and prefectures, requesting them to give every assistance to emigrants proceeding to China and Corea, has ordered the Governors to give similar assistance to the people going to Eastern Siberia.

The minor Government servants in Singapore have their grievances about the cost of living and it is reported that they are about to appeal to the Secretary of State, seeking alleviation in the form of an increase in compensation. A non-Government man writes to the *Straits Times*, complaining that it is not only on Government servants that the hardship of increased prices falls.

The auriferous veins, rumoured for more than two centuries to exist in Siberia, seem at last to have been found. At least, the *Tageblatt* hears from St. Petersburg that the Englishmen who were authorised to prospect for gold near the eastern coast of Siberia, on the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk, have discovered immensely rich strata, described as a second Klondike. A Colonel Osborne is said to have gone to St. Petersburg to ask for a concession for exploiting the goldfield. The Russian Government, however, seems disinclined to grant any concession to foreigners.

The *Japan Mail* reports the arrival on the 10th inst. of the U.S.S. *Hancock*, with members of the Philippine Commission on board, in Yokohama Harbour. The members of the Commission are Judge Taft (President), Judge Ide, Mr. L. E. Wright, Professor Bernard Moses, and Professor Dean Worcester. The families of several of the commissioners will stay at Yokohama during the summer to avoid the unpleasant hot season of Manila. The *Hancock* was expected to remain at Yokohama till Thursday, the 17th inst., when she was to proceed to Manila via Nagasaki.

It is stated by the Japanese paper *Chino* that Baron Kodama, Governor-General of Formosa, and Mr. Goto, Chief of the Civil Government Department, have interested themselves greatly in the problem of spreading Japanese influence in Fuhkien. By giving substantial aid to schools, fostering the establishment of a newspaper, promoting the organization of a sericultural station, and encouraging navigation, they have succeeded in winning much public approval, so that the people of Fuhkien have come to regard Japan as a most desirable neighbour, and are showing a disposition to take her for a model in everything. There are traces of the enthusiastic penman in this paragraph, says the *Japan Mail*, but we may assume that it contains some grains of truth. And yet a writer in *Harper's Weekly* in an article entitled "Japan's Failure in Corea," hints that Fuhkien should ultimately, in event of China's break up, fall to the United States, as Japan has shown her incompetence to govern such a province.

THE INLAND WATERS OPENING AND THE NEW BLUE BOOK.

(Daily Press, 23rd May.)

The public have already expressed their conviction that the so-called opening of inland waters was a hopeless sham, and we have pointed out before the manner in which British interests have been deliberately given away by Mr. BAX IRONSIDE, at that time H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Peking. This view is supported by his despatch to Lord SALISBURY dated May 25, 1899 (No. 228 of the recent Blue Book, China No. 1, 1900) with regard to the additions subsequently made by the Chinese to the Regulations. In this despatch he writes: "The Chinese Authorities also contended 'that some definition of the type of steamer seemed necessary, not for the purely inland navigation, but to prevent the undue extension of what was intended to be inland trade to distant places along the coast not opened to international trade.' The words 'not being vessels of seagoing type' were accordingly added to Regulation II." Now, it was to be expected that the representative of the Power that obtained the concession would have at least taken the trouble to read the Regulations before commenting on the additions made to them—additions, we may remark, made subsequent to their issue and correction by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD. But such Mr. BAX IRONSIDE does not seem to have done, and his failure in this respect is only equalled by the tone of his communications to the Shipping Companies, on which we at the time expressed our opinion. Had he read clause I of the Regulations he would have seen that the expression "inland waters" is used with a similar meaning to that given for places in the interior (*nei ti*) in the fourth article of the Chefoo Convention, and had he taken the trouble to read the fourth article of that Convention he would have found that the definition of the words inland (*nei ti*) applies as much to places on the sea coasts and river shores as to places in the interior not open to foreign trade. This is plain enough, and, if it means anything at all, means that every river side and coast town in the Empire of China is open to steam traffic. And yet in spite of that we find Mr. BAX IRONSIDE calmly accepting a dictum of the Chinese Government which completely annuls this—a point which his predecessor in office, Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, had taken particular pains to insist upon. We noted at the time the manner in which this addition to the Regulations was smuggled in by the Chinese Government after those Regulations had been amended by the British Minister. Shortly after the introduction of this absurd and meaningless definition of the class of steamer to be used we pointed out the object with which it was inserted, and our contention is now borne out by Mr. BAX IRONSIDE's despatch. When the draft Regulations were submitted to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD he very properly erased the word "small", having reference to steamers, on the grounds that the size of steamers might safely be left to the requirements of trade. It is most extraordinary that he should have allowed it to be replaced by one equally vague and absurd. Its introduction, as we said at the time, could serve no useful purpose. Either all the places in China are open to steam traffic or they are not. If they are not, let us have a list of those that are and let the kind of steamer that will run to them be left to the judgement of those better able to form an opinion than members of the Tsungli Yamen, or even the British Legation. The reason why it was inserted is obvious and is essentially a Chinese

trick. It was not of course to be expected that the vast shipping interest of Great Britain in the East is a matter which would trouble a gentleman of the light and almost facetious nature of Mr. BAX IRONSIDE. It merely appeared to him that British Shipping wished to engage in, to quote his own words, "the carrying trade of the interior." If they did not, what the object was in opening inland waters does not appear to have struck him! But the fact that they did wish to do this appears to him (a British Official) to be reasonable and laudable grounds for doing all he can to stop them. In a word, it is the Circumlocution Office once more fitly represented in all its uselessness by Mr. BAX IRONSIDE. What, we should like to know was, and is, the result of the protests made by the Consul at Canton and the West River ports against the differential treatment accorded to British Shipping. Mr. BAX IRONSIDE instructs them to protest. Do they or have they protested? And if so has there been any practical result from the protests? In the Blue Book now before us it appears from the Consuls' despatches that there was grave and urgent necessity for measures being enforced on the Chinese to secure equality of treatment for all vessels; and, although these despatches were written twelve months ago and instructions to protest were issued twelve months ago, the situation to-day remains exactly as it was then. The instructions to protest were written as a sop to the public and were understood to be such by the Consuls to whom they were addressed. No protests have been made, no steps have been taken to place British ships on terms of equality with other vessels, and, up to date, not a package or bale of goods has been carried in steamers under the concession—due to the restrictions placed in the way by Sir ROBERT HART, acting for the Chinese, coupled with the apathy of the British Officials. A result, creditable alike to the Minister who got the kudos of opening the waters, and to the Prime Minister who, nearly two years ago, assured Parliament that the British Government would insist on the Regulations being amended in as satisfactory sense!

There is also another point on which those interested in the question, and with it of the effectual opening of China to trade, would do well to enquire and that is, what reply Mr. BAX IRONSIDE gave to Lord SALISBURY's despatch of October 25th last (No. 381 of Blue Book) wherein he encloses copies of communications from the Board of Trade and from Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON. Lord SALISBURY adds: "In the meantime 'I should be glad to learn whether in your opinion the remedy suggested by Mr. JAMIESON in his Memorandum of the 8th August, viz., that the destination and not the steamer should be made the criterion of the duties payable, is one which would commend itself to the mercantile and shipping community?'" No answer appears to this and we are left in the dark as to Mr. BAX IRONSIDE's ideas on, the subject but, judging by his previous communications, it is not difficult to conceive that it would betray that grasp of the subject which was the marked characteristic of his correspondence on the matter. He knew he was to be in office for a short time only and hoped to stave off the trouble and attention the initiation of the measures suggested by Mr. JAMIESON—which are of course the only remedial ones—would involve.

Nor is it alone in respect to inland navigation that an unsatisfactory state of affairs is disclosed by the Blue Book. Despatch No. 77 from Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD says

of Samshui: "No fresh cases (of illegal 'exaction of lekin')." The ordinary reader would suppose from this that owing to the strong action taken by the British Government no fresh cases had occurred. On turning to the inclosure on which Sir CLAUDE's statement is based we find exactly the opposite to be the case. The Consuls' words are. "No fresh cases have been brought to my notice, but the taxation of foreign goods in Chinese hands goes on constantly even in Samshui itself, the Chinese merchant unwillingly consenting 'for fear of reprisals should they object.'" This is what Sir CLAUDE calls reporting that no fresh cases have occurred at the port! We fancy the general public dissent somewhat from this interpretation. The present state of taxation at Samshui and throughout the delta generally is in a most unsatisfactory condition and to represent it as otherwise is wilfully to falsify things. The fact is the diplomatic success which Britain is supposed to have acquired during the past two years in China are more evident on paper than in reality and there is a gradual awakening to the fact in England. Sir EDWARD GREY's speech, following that of Mr. WALTON in the House of Commons on the China debate, foreshadows that once the Transvaal question is settled the hand of the Government will be forced, and that stronger and more drastic measures will be insisted on in order to compel China to observe treaties which she has persistently broken and disregarded with impunity for the past fifty years.

THE CHINESE EMIGRATION QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 19th May.)

Although in recent years Hongkong has shown a marvellous development of trade in almost every branch of industry, much to the acquisition of wealth by individual merchants and traders and to the general prosperity of the Colony, yet Chinese emigration, in which this port for many years took such an active part, by feeding the labour markets in many quarters of the globe, has comparatively languished. Steamers now no longer teem with their hundreds, or may be thousands, of Chinese coolies for America and Australia. These countries have been closed to them, and the Chinese coolie must, perforce, if he is bent on emigration, seek less favoured climes and less remunerative markets. Within easy distance Borneo and the Straits Settlements, Java, Sumatra, Siam and the Malay Peninsula are still open to him, where he thrives and prospers, and adds materially to the development of the British and Dutch possessions and other tropical countries in which he has temporarily made his home. Wherever the Chinaman has gone, in whatever country or climate he has taken up his temporary abode, he has invariably conducted himself as a sober and industrious workman, obeying readily the laws and regulations of the governing class, and contentedly fulfilled his appointed task in the work of humanity. Generally speaking, the Chinese emigration from this port was conducted in the past to two classes of countries, the temperate and the tropical. To the temperate, such as Australia and America, the trade has well nigh been stopped by restrictive laws. As we noted recently, His Excellency WU TING FANG, Chinese Representative at Washington, has taken up the cause of his countrymen, with a desire that the restrictive immigration laws against the Chinese should be rescinded, or at least considerably modified. There is much room for comment upon a trade in which this port is so largely inter-

ested. When an official in the position of His Excellency Wu Ting Fang advocates a cause through the American Press, there can be no doubt that he will secure a good and fair hearing, though many might question whether in all the circumstances that have attended Chinese immigration in the United States of America it was a fit and proper advocacy for one in the lofty position of His Excellency. Much as we may sympathize with Chinese immigration into temperate and sparingly populated countries, we are afraid that there are grave obstacles to China in the existing state of her civilization, while she shows her present want of hospitality to foreigners, ever inducing such countries as the United States and the Australian Colonies to open wide their gates to Chinese immigrants. Wu Ting Fang in his ardent advocacy of the Chinese cause rather neglected to consider Chinese immigration into civilized countries from an American standpoint, though he put forth his own case with apparently telling effect. Now at the present moment there are in America no less than 300,000 Chinese subjects, 70,000 of whom are in California, alone, all earning good wages—such wages, in fact, as are beyond the dreams of avarice in their own land, while many return to China enriched with a competency.

But what is the attitude of China at the present moment with respect to foreigners? A glance at her treaties will show. Outside the Treaty Ports and a small radius around them her territory is practically an unknown land, and at times her people and the governing classes are actively hostile. In the Tientsin Treaty of 1858—and in Chinese Treaties with other nations, the article with respect to Passports is practically the same—article IX. reads as follows:—“British subjects are hereby authorised “to travel, for their pleasure or for purposes “of trade, to all parts of the interior “under passports, which will be issued “by their Consuls, and countersigned “by the local authorities. These pass- “ports, if demanded, must be produced “for examination in the localities passed “through. If the passport be not irregular, “the bearer will be allowed to proceed, and “no opposition shall be offered to his hiring “persons; &c., &c. If he be without a pass- “port, or if he commit any offence against “law, he shall be handed over to the nearest “consul for punishment, but he must not be “subject to any ill-usage in excess of neces- “sary restraint. No passport need be ap- “plied for by persons going on excursions “from the ports open to trade to a distance “not exceeding 100 li, and for a period not “exceeding five days.”

But owing to the influx of Chinese subjects into the United States of America, the United States have perhaps been brought more closely in relation with the Chinese Government with respect to their mutual subjects than any other nation. The Immigration and Commercial Treaty of 1880 was the first indication that there was a note of anxiety in the mind of the American Government, and displayed a desire on the part of the Chinese Empire to protect its subjects in a foreign land. Article II. of the Treaty reads thus:—“Chinese subjects, whether proceeding to the United States as “traders or students, merchants, or for curi- “osity, together with their body and house- “hold servants, and Chinese labourers who “are now in the United States, shall be “allowed to go and come of their own free “will and accord and shall be accorded all “the rights, privileges, immunities and “exemptions which are accorded to the citi- “zens and subjects of the most favoured “nation.”

Owing to unfortunate disturbances, practically foreshadowed in Article I. of the Treaty of 1880, it became imperatively necessary for the high contracting parties to modify the former Treaty, and the Immigration Prohibition Treaty of 1894 was the result. By this Treaty, for a period of ten years Chinese labourers, except under certain specified conditions, are absolutely prohibited from entering the United States; but Article II. of the Treaty of 1880, above quoted, is not affected. The Chinese Government further consents to the registration of all Chinese subjects in the United States of America for their better protection. On the other hand the United States acknowledges the right of the Chinese Government to enact and enforce similar laws, and undertakes to furnish annually to the Chinese Government a register shewing the full name, age, occupation, and residence of practically all citizens of the United States resident in China, officials, and their body and household servants alone excepted.

A consideration of these Treaties is sufficient to show that, while America has until very recently practically thrown open her doors to Chinese Immigration, China has continuously pursued a policy of isolation and traditional distrust of the foreigner. When China has opened up her country without reserve to the influences of modern civilization and when the policy of obstruction, hostility and distrust of the foreigner has abated in China, His Excellency Wu Ting Fang will have a better cause to present to the American people. A country seeking concessions should be prepared to grant likewise. But although we are scarcely prepared to accept his arguments in their entirety on Chinese immigration when applied to highly civilized nations, we contend that a large influx of Chinese labourers into the Philippines would add materially to their development and prosperity. No one acquainted with the capacity of the Chinese coolie for work can gainsay his immeasurable superiority to the Filipino and his contentment under any fair government. The social and economic objection to the Chinese labourer so largely apparent in Australia and America does not exist in Manila, and if Wu Ting Fang will exert his powerful advocacy with the American Government for the admission of his industrious countrymen into the Philippines, he will take up a cause that is worthy of success, and if successful will stimulate the emigration trade of this port and add a factor to the population of the Philippines, easy to govern, anxious for the acquisition of wealth and capable of great exertion in a tropical country and a trying climate.

The death is announced from Singapore of Mr. R. H. Padday, accountant of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., on the 13th inst. Mr. Padday had been sixteen years in the employ of the T. P. D. Co. and leaves a widow and four children.

The *London and China Express* notes that among the decorations on “Primrose Day” Mr. R. Belittos, of Hongkong, as usual, sent a very handsome floral memorial, in the form of a cross, formed of choice white flowers, including arum lilies, eucharist lilies, and white lilac, bearing on its front an escutcheon in red flowers, which was placed on the seat in the chancel of the church formerly occupied by the Earl, and immediately below the monument erected to his memory by the Queen. Attached to the cross was a card, bearing a device formed of the Union Jack and the Royal Standard, placed above a small map of the British Isles. On it was inscribed, after certain patriotic lines:—“In loving memory of the Right Hon. Earl Beaconsfield, K.G. Died April 19, 1881. From the Hon. E. R. Belittos, Hongkong. Per Mrs. Willis, of London. God defend the right.”

OVERCROWDING AND THE EUROPEAN POPULATION.

(Daily Press, May 22nd.)

In the deliberations of the committee, consisting of the whole of the Sanitary Board, which is to prepare for submission to the Government a comprehensive scheme of sanitary reform for this colony, the question of overcrowding must necessarily occupy a prominent place. It is to be expected that the housing question will be considered one of those “points of more immediate urgency,” which, in accordance with the terms of the motion carried at the Sanitary Board’s meeting on the 10th inst., will be dealt with first and form the subject of interim reports. The vital urgency of the question will be denied by none. It may be that our death rate compares favourably with that of Dublin or indeed of many other cities; but it would not be a sufficient cause for contentment, even were Hongkong one of the healthiest cities in the world, if it could be shown that it could be made materially healthier. It must not be forgotten that for a large proportion of the population Hongkong is a sojourning place, not a city in which they count on ending their days, and therefore comparisons with European towns, for instance, are calculated to mislead. More particularly does this apply to the European population resident here; and the housing of the less well-to-do portion of this European population thus assumes an importance out of proportion to the mere number of persons involved. Mr. POLLOCK in his lecture three weeks ago voiced once more the thoughts of all who have devoted any attention to the subject when he asked: “Can it be believed that whilst on the one “hand our police are provided with lodgings, “on the other hand our sanitary and market “inspectors and overseers are left absolutely “unprovided for in the matter of accommo- “dation, many of them living scattered about “in the crowded Chinese quarters of this “city? Surely this is a matter which “only requires to be realized, in order “to be remedied.” The matter, of course, is far from concerning minor government officials only; but their case is perhaps the worst. An incident of the last week proves this only too well. An Englishman arrived in the Colony to take up his duties in connection with important Government works. Owing to the exorbitant height of rents now he was compelled to live in a flat in a crowded Chinese quarter. He had been out little over a fortnight when he contracted the plague and died. This, it may be said, is an isolated case. It is, we gladly admit, as far as the termination of the affair is concerned. But with regard to the fact of Europeans being obliged to live, during the time when they are not at work, in an unhealthy environment the case is only one among many. Mr. OSMERY at the meeting of the Sanitary Board referred to above expressed his surprise at the “pessimistic view taken by members of the Sanitary Board and by the Press, and a good many others in the colony, as to the state of Hongkong.” But would it be right to be optimistic until we can be sure that the recurrence of such cases as the one to which we have alluded is impossible? With regard to the remedies which have been proposed for the present state of congestion of population and excessive house rents, nearly all practically tend in the same direction, namely that the Government should step in and by the removal of insanitary or otherwise objectionable houses, by the reconstruction of areas thus cleared, and by the laying out of fresh areas, should enable the space per head of the population to be brought up to the requisite standard. But

with this agreement on the main point there exist countless minor divergences of opinion. For instance, as to the location of new sites some advocate Kowloon, others West Point, others insist that it is useless to expect people to live away from the centre of the town where in their work lies; a correspondent writing to this paper pointed to "the Eastern and Western ends of the city, especially the latter, where a large number of premises suitable for housing the working class have for a long time remained unoccupied for the reason that their situation is too remote from the centre of the possible occupant's work." Again, as to the provision of the funds for such large operations as would be involved by the proposed alterations, there have been many suggestions. The Sanitary Board's advocacy of a Trust Scheme was not favourably received. Other schemes which have been suggested seem unpracticable. But sources of revenue are not lacking, as the Sanitary Board has pointed out. We have been assured that if we are unanimous in our demand for anything we cannot be prevented from getting it. We cannot afford to be accused of apathy in a matter so vital to the welfare of the Colony or of not backing up the Government when it is prepared to act. Will it be prepared to act with promptitude in this matter? If so, all concerned will have cause for congratulating themselves.

SZECHUAN REVISITED.

(Daily Press, 24th May.)

A series of interesting articles has been appearing in the *North China Daily News* on "Szechuan Revisited" by Mr. ARCHIBALD LITTLE. The province has been gradually changing from the state in which previous travellers found it and in the near future the changes promise to be still more remarkable. "Szechuan," says the writer, "no longer seems the remote country it was when I first visited it seventeen years ago and, although the 'British sphere' is a pure chimera, yet the number of British interests in the province are rapidly increasing from day to day. The communication with Shanghai by steam, now shortly to become an accomplished fact, is anxiously looked forward to by foreigners and Chinese alike, and a great further development of the various resources of this exceptional province must surely follow." The capital, Chengtu, is "beginning to acquire the life of a treaty port, dinner and tea-parties being the order of the day, Mr. LITTLE observes; while foreigners, both men and women, move about the streets not only unmolested, but even unnoticed. In Chengtu the traveller found, besides numerous missionaries, Mr. PRITCHARD MORGAN's party, who were there in connection with the mining concessions in the province, Mr. BIGHAM, of H. M. Legation at Peking, and engineers and surveyors of the Yunnan Company. The Chinese officials were on very good terms with the missions, and altogether the foreigners were exceptionally well situated. The town itself, though most of the buildings are poor and low, is described as spacious and fresh for a Chinese town. Mr. LITTLE did not arrive at Chengtu entirely unmolested, however, for at Chaochiatu—built between two streams which lower down unite into the Tö River, a tributary of the Yangtze—he only escaped a riot by his men telling the inhabitants that he had come to build them a railway! The idea of the railway, indeed, seems to be popular in Szechuan. This is not to be wondered at when the state of the roads is taken into consideration. The great undertaking

of 1900, the Ichang-Chungking road, which should have made the journey between the two towns a matter of twelve days (instead of, as now, by junk, in winter of twenty-five and in summer of sixty days) remains to this day an attempt, mainly owing to the inaction of the Hupeh Viceroy. The Szechuan section, though devious as all Chinese roads, was a creditable piece of work and cost the provincial treasury a million taels. But it has been allowed to decay and the agriculturists have encroached on it everywhere. "Thus," comments Mr. LITTLE, "the great Szechuan highway, opened with such a flourish of trumpets and innumerable deeply-engraved rock inscriptions in the highest literary Wönni, is to-day dead, after a short ten years' life and is now literally buried. Such is China!" Mr. LITTLE had a full experience of the badness of the roads, for he had the misfortune to meet with a week of wet cold weather in the second stage of his journey, from Wanhien, on the Yangtze, to Chengtu, and he describes the path as frequently a mere mound, of red clayey mud with loose paving-stones embedded here and there.

This lack of roads makes portage very expensive, of course, and hence, though fairly good bituminous coal can be mined a day's journey from Wanhien and can be sold at Fenshui at one cash per catty, the market price at Wanhien is five cash per catty! As to the mining of the coal obtained in the mountain ranges further along the road traversed by Mr. LITTLE from Wanhien to Chengtu, the whole description is worth quotation, but for considerations of space we refrain. However, it may be noted that there appears to be no actual property in the mines and any one is free to start working them. The manner of working is primitive and the miners are often little better than slaves. The coal fetches at the pit's mouth 60 cash a catty, less than three shillings a ton. As the supply seems plentiful, the opening of the district should make a wonderful difference to the province. With regard to other industries, Mr. LITTLE notes the great recent increase in opium-growing in the 600 miles between Ichang and Chengtu. The farmer, as he says, having through want of roads no market beyond his immediate neighbourhood, naturally favours a product so easy to transport and so readily saleable as opium. The effect of cheap opium on the inhabitants themselves is deplorable, but disreputable as they look they do not appear to be really poor. Two days' journey from Shunking is a salt district, where the salt is so plentiful that when prepared it costs about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.—20 cash a catty. Of the other means of communication than roads now existing between Szechuan and the outside world, the river Yangtze, Mr. LITTLE says: "In one respect the stretch of river 500 miles above Chungking . . . affords a marked contrast to the 500 miles below Chungking. In this stretch, although still a rapid stream, the river follows the valleys in a natural way and runs parallel with the stratification: hence there are no cross reefs athwart the current, and though races attended by whirlpools, dangerous to ill-found craft, occur, it is not a vicious river as is the stretch below." And yet, as we saw the other day, the *Woodcock* and *Woodlark* successfully surmounted the difficulties of the passage up to Chungking. There seems therefore every reason to hope that the maiden voyage of the *Pioneer* to Ichang, which was to begin yesterday, may be the first start of a regular means of communication between the coast and a province where most undoubted great natural resources are only awaiting development.

SUPREME COURT.

May 18th.

CRIMINAL SESSION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, K.T., C.M.G., (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE A DISTRICT WATCHMAN.

Ho Tak was charged with attempting to bribe a district watchman named Wang Fook by offering him 40 cents. He pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. M. d'Espirito Santo Pereira (foreman), E. Pereira, R. R. Roberts, Ellis Kelly, E. S. Joseph, J. H. Gubbins, and J. Benjamin.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) said that as the jury were aware there were district watchmen appointed for the different districts in this colony, a district watchman being equivalent to a constable. They were also aware that there was a gambling law in force in the colony. It seemed that on the 15th April, soon after one o'clock, a district watchman caught some men gambling in the street. He took one of them into custody, and as he was taking the man to the Police Station the defendant came up and said, "It is Sunday. People have nothing to do, and they are playing. Let him go." At the same time he offered the district watchman 40 cents. The gambler was convicted and the defendant was committed for trial for attempted bribery.

The district watchman gave evidence, and in reply to the defendant he said it was not true that the defendant was offering the 40 cents to the gambler to pay his debt and that he snatched it away. The defendant placed it in his hand.

In reply to the court witness said he could not say whether the defendant was one of the gamblers or not. There were between ten and twenty of them.

Inspector Baker gave evidence as to what transpired when the defendant was taken to the Police Station. When charged with offering a bribe the defendant said he had nothing to say.

Lo Hun, who was called as a witness by the defendant, said he was on the Praya, playing with some boys, when the district watchman came up and arrested him, accusing him of gambling. While he was in custody the defendant came up. He asked the defendant to repay him 40 cents which he owed him to enable him to pay the fine which would be imposed upon him for gambling. When the defendant was offering him the 40 cents the district watchman seized hold of his hand, took the money from him, and arrested him.

In reply to the Attorney-General, witness said the defendant was not one of the boys he was playing with. The defendant was standing by. They were both cargo boat men and were standing about waiting to be hired.

The defendant said he owed the last witness the sum of 40 cents, and when he was arrested he asked him to repay him. When he was offering the man 40 cents the district watchman seized hold of him and took the money from him. He did not offer the 40 cents to the district watchman as a bribe. The district watchman charged him with offering a bribe simply to make up a case. The accusation was a false one.

The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to three months' hard labour, his Lordship observing that people like him must learn that public officers must not have bribes offered to them.

THROWING CORROSIVE FLUID.

Chan Wing Piu was charged with (1) throwing corrosive fluid with intent to burn; (2) throwing corrosive fluid with intent to do grievous bodily harm. He pleaded not guilty.

The jury was the same as in the previous case.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner was a boy in the Hongkong Hotel. He was married, but seemed to have had some dealing with a girl named Seung Kam, who was a prostitute and lived at 143, Third Street. He kept her once for a month, so of course the girl would know him perfectly well and could not mistake him for anyone else. When the prisoner's wife came to Hongkong this connection between him and

the girl stopped, and about the second moon of last year they parted by mutual consent, and she would tell the jury that they had no quarrel. The prisoner went to a family house and the girl to a brothel, removing to another at 148, Third Street, in February of this year. The prisoner appeared to have gone there once or twice. He went there on the 10th April, two days before the throwing of this sulphuric acid. The prisoner asked the girl to go away with him, but she refused. He supposed she had enough knowledge of the world to know what going abroad meant. She knew that when she got to Singapore he would probably sell her to a brothel, put the money in his pocket and go away. On her refusing to go away with him the prisoner got very angry and advised her to be careful, saying that he would come next day to injure her. He did not come the next day, but at about half past eleven on the night of the 12th April, as she was entering the house, she saw the prisoner standing sideways in the doorway. He did not speak to her and she went upstairs. As she was going up, the prisoner threw some sulphuric acid after her, burning her about the neck and her clothing. She was taken to the hospital the next day, and remained there a week. On Inspector Baker searching the prisoner's room the next day he found a paper relating to the purchase of some sulphuric acid.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

The prisoner made a long rambling statement as to his connection with the complainant, but denied throwing any fluid on to her. With regard to the document found in his room he said it belonged to a friend of his called Chun Yee, who left it there. He had not committed the crime alleged against him.

The prisoner was found guilty on both counts and sentenced to imprisonment for two years and six months with hard labour.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE RATING APPEAL.

His Lordship delivered judgment in this important case, which was heard on Wednesday.

His Lordship said:—In the matter of the Rating Ordinance No. 14 of 1883, and in the matter of the petition of Dora Delano Forbes by her Attorney Robert Gordon Shewan for a refund of rates in respect of the tenement "Rosehill," Caine Road.

This is an adjudication upon a petition for a refund of rates presented by Dora Delano Forbes by her Attorney Robert Gordon Shewan in respect of the tenement known as "Rosehill," Caine Road.

By a lease dated 24th June, 1893, the upper floor of "Rosehill" was let to Major Kelaart, R.A., acting as agent for the R.A. officers in Hongkong, for a year from 1st Nov. 1893.

By a lease dated 25th July, 1893, the lower floor of "Rosehill" was let to H.M.'s Principal Secretary of State for the War Department for a year from 1st Nov., 1893.

When the year named in these leases had expired both floors of the tenement continued to be rented by the original lessees or their successors, first upon a yearly, and subsequently upon a monthly tenancy.

On the 31st August, 1899, the tenement in question was wholly vacated by the heretofore lessees. The petition alleges that the tenement also remained unoccupied for all the time from and after the 31st August, 1899, till the end of the year 1899, an allegation which the Col. Treasurer denies.

Rates in respect of this tenement "Rosehill," were paid for the 2nd, 3rd and 14th quarters of 1899 on the 5th May, 2nd August and 11th November, 1899, these dates not being within the first month of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters respectively. On 3rd February, 1900, the petitioner applied under form D in the schedule of the Rating Ordinance No. 15 of 1888 for a refund of rates for all four quarters of 1899. A refund of \$327.60 claimed for the whole year was allowed on the 14th February, 1899. The basis of this refund was G. N., No 340 of 28th August, published in the Government Gazette, 1893, at page 874, and the ground of the refusal to refund the rates for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters was that such rates had not been paid

in advance. The issues between the parties resolved themselves into the following, viz:—

(1) Was the tenement, "Rosehill," in whole or in part Government premises during the tenancies aforesaid?

(2) Was "Rosehill" occupied or unoccupied during any time from 1st September, 1899 to 31st December, 1899?

(3) Was payment of rates made in advance within the meaning of section 34 of the Rating Ordinance?

The first issue may be put thus, Was the tenement rateable or not? The Colonial Treasurer in the 5th paragraph of his answer asserts that the tenement was rateable. One must first prove that a given tenement is Government premises and that it is not occupied in any way for gain or pecuniary profit: these two facts concerning the tenement having been proved, the tenement is not rateable. The proper and only method, however, of establishing these two facts was by following the procedure laid down in sections 15-22 of the Rating Ordinance. That procedure was not adopted, with the result that the petitioner cannot now be heard to say that the tenement is Government premises and not rateable. By section 4 of Ordinance 5 of 1892 it is enacted that after the time for appealing has expired certain percentages in the valuation of every tenement enumerated in the list shall be payable as rates. The tenement was accordingly liable to rates during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1899, and having been occupied during those quarters the Treasurer was right in refusing to refund such rates.

As regards the second issue, viz., whether Rosehill was occupied or not at any period between 1st September and 31st December, 1899, I am of opinion that it was occupied from the 29th or 30th September till the 31st December, 1899. By Section 1 (7) of the Rating Ordinance a tenement is considered unoccupied when it is put to no beneficial use, and a building is considered unoccupied when it is not used for habitation by anyone but a caretaker. A clerk of Messrs Shewan, Tomes and Co. occupied the tenement from the end of September, 1899, till 3rd January, 1900. His family was with him: he paid no rent. A distinct gain resulted to this clerk; he had the beneficial use of the tenement. Or again the building was used for habitation by the clerk and his family. His evidence was as follows:—

"A gardener was there during September; he got wages. He stayed on after I went. I was not a caretaker. I did not go in to look after the premises. I went because I was in a fix as to a house. Mr. Tomes said, 'In the meantime you will take care of the house.' I was not paid for looking after the house." This shows that he did not reside in "Rosehill" as a caretaker. Both the tenement and the building having been occupied from the end of September, 1899, till 31st December, 1899, no refund of rates paid for that period could be had. The construction of the phrase, "Paid in advance" in Section 34 (1) of the Rating Ordinance, does not therefore arise for decision. As it may be doubtful whether the phrase means paid within the first month of such quarter, it would be well to have the point settled by fresh legislation.

One other point arises for decision, viz., whether the Colonial Treasurer was estopped by his conduct from alleging in his answer any other reason than that alleged in his letter of 25th March, 1900, viz., failure of payment of rates in advance as a reason for refusing to refund the rates. If he was so estopped, the Colonial Treasurer could not have raised the defence that "Rosehill" was rateable or not occupied by the Imperial Government or, in other words, not Government premises, or was occupied from end of September to 31st December, 1899. An estoppel by conduct may arise from agreement, misrepresentation or negligence. The Colonial Treasurer entered into no agreement, made no misrepresentation and has not been negligent. The case of *Ex parte Adamson, In re Collie* 8 A.C. 807 was cited for the petitioner on the point and the words of James, C.J. at page 817 were quoted as follow:—

"Nobody ought to be estopped from averring truth or asserting a just demand unless by his acts or words or neglect he is now averring the truth or asserting the demand would work some wrong to some other person who has been induced to do something, or to abstain from doing something,

by reason of what he had said or done, or omitted to say or do." Has the Colonial Treasurer worked any wrong to the petitioner by inducing him to do something? It is said that by omitting to give any other reason than the one, he did give for not refunding the rates he induced the petitioner to present a petition asking for a refund of rates. Suppose the conduct of the Treasurer did induce such action: did he thereby work wrong to the petitioner? Did the petitioner thereby suffer detriment? The mere voluntary bringing of a petition is not a wrong or detriment to the petitioner. The alleged estoppel does not exist, and the petition is dismissed with costs.

A TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

Ho Shing, who was charged with being a member of an unlawful society, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs, A. Muller, J. H. Faunch, J. Leonard, A. M. Philips, H. E. A. Hoile, A. F. Williamson and F. Melhish.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that as the jury were aware there were a good many secret societies in China, and the Legislature believing that they constituted a danger to the peace passed an Ordinance dealing with them. Among these societies was the Triad Society, of which the prisoner was charged with being a member. It appeared that a Chinese Sergeant of Police, from information received, went to the prisoner's house at Samshingpo on the 27th April and found the prisoner there. He took him into custody, but before then he saw the prisoner take a book out of his pocket and throw it away. The book was picked up and was found to relate to the Triad Society. The Ordinance provided that if any writings were found in the possession or under the control of any person he was presumed, unless he showed the contrary, to be a member of that society.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

The prisoner called as a witness a Chinaman connected with the Basil Mission. This man said that on hearing it stated that the prisoner was a member of a Triad Society he made enquiries, because if he was satisfied that the prisoner belonged to such a society he would not be allowed to remain a member of the mission and to take the sacrament as he had previously done. He, however, could not discover that the charge against the prisoner was true.

In answer to the Attorney-General, witness said that if the prisoner was convicted he would be expelled from the mission.

The prisoner made a long statement, denying that he was a member of the Triad Society and stating that he was a Christian.

The jury were unanimously of opinion that the prisoner was not guilty, and he was accordingly discharged.

May 19th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON,
KT., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE ARMED ROBBERY AT SHANKIWAN.

Wong San Ming, Ho Young, and Tam Chun were charged with committing an armed robbery at Shankiwan. They pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. H. Varrelmann, David Haskell, Richard Hamilton, H. E. Krol, W. O. C. Spalckhaver, B. C. M. Johnston, and K. E. P. Herbst.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) said the complainant in this case was a house boy at Quarry Bay Sugar Refinery residing in a private house at 24, Shui Chin Wan, just beyond Quarry Bay. Shortly before the 26th April, when this robbery occurred, the complainant received the sum of \$500 from his brother in America, and he had also the sum of \$75 in the house. He could not help thinking that some smart thief was at the bottom of this affair—that someone came to the conclusion that the complainant had a lot of money in his house and that it would be a good thing to steal it. This case showed the advantage of the telephone, and he thought the manner in which the men were captured was very creditable to the police. At the time of the robbery—between 12 and half-past at midnight on the 26th April—there were in the house on the first floor the complainant and his wife and

a woman named Lam Hin, the boy's mother—Wong Kin—being on the ground floor. The mother was awakened by the door being smashed open by some men armed with revolvers and carrying torches. They seized her and threatened to shoot her if she made a noise or resisted them in any way. They then smashed open a box belonging to the old lady and took out \$174 in money and a quantity of clothing. They then went upstairs, seized the people there, and ransacked the boxes. Altogether they took \$700 in money and a considerable quantity of clothing of all sorts. When the robbers had left the house the complainant alarmed the neighbours, and meeting a European Police Sergeant informed him of the robbery. The Sergeant telephoned to Shaukiwan, telling Inspector Robertson what had occurred, and the Inspector telephoned to the other police stations. Lance-Sergeant Lacoek, of No. 2 police station at Wanchai, calculating that the robbers would be bringing the plunder to Hongkong, made for the direction of Quarry Bay, and when near Jardine's Sugar Refinery at about half-past five in the morning he met the first and second prisoners carrying bundles. He stopped them, and found them in possession of some of the stolen property. He subsequently met the third prisoner coming gaily along in a ricksha with a bundle. The sergeant stopped him and found him in possession of some of the stolen property. The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

His Lordship having reviewed the case at great length, the jury returned a unanimous verdict against the three prisoners of guilty on four counts and not guilty on the fifth.

His Lordship addressing the prisoners said—It is quite clear that you committed this robbery. It seems to me very likely that you came down from the mainland of China in order to perpetrate robberies of this kind. When these things take place and when ruffians who come from the mainland of China to perpetrate these robberies are caught, we must show them that they cannot do this with impunity. You must be put up for a long time to let others see that a severe punishment awaits acts of this kind. Each of you three prisoners must undergo imprisonment for seven years with hard labour, and you must each be whipped once within one week from this date with twenty strokes.

May 21st.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, K.T., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

INDECENT ASSAULT.

To IN was charged with (1) defilement of a girl under 12; (2) defilement of a girl between 12 and 16; (3) defilement of a girl between 12 and 16; (4) indecent assault upon a female.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the prisoner. He said that the prisoner had been communicated with and also his father. The prisoner, with the full consent of of his father, consented to plead guilty on the fourth count. He understood that the learned Attorney-General was willing to accept this plea of guilty.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) said he had come to the conclusion that as the prisoner was under 16 years of age the ends of justice would be quite satisfied by accepting his plea to the fourth count.

The Attorney General entered a *nolle prosequi* as regarded the first three counts.

Mr. Slade addressed a few words to the court, laying stress upon the tender age of his client.

The prisoner was sentenced to four months hard labour.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A LUKONG.

Ching Fat Lam, Li Sing, and U Pak were charged with (1) robbery from the person; (2) larceny; (3) assault, occasioning bodily harm.

The Attorney General entered a *nolle prosequi* in respect of the third prisoner, for whom Mr. Robinson appeared, and he was accordingly not placed in the dock. The other two prisoners pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. Robert Henderson, Walter King, J. H. Oxbery, A. M. Philips, Richard Hamilton, H. Varrelmann, and A. F. Williamson.

The Attorney General said the first prisoner was a lukong or Chinese constable, the second prisoner being the master of U Pak. The prosecutor, Li Sing, rented a floor at 39, Hillier Street, which was used as a tailors shop, and a lot of gambling appeared to take place among the tailors. In addition to this workshop, Li Sing rented a floor in a family house at 19, Circular Pathway. It appeared that on the 25th March the first prisoner went to No. 39, Hillier Street, when the tailors were engaged in gambling. He was stationed at Wanchai, and had no business there. He wanted to join in the game, but he was told that strangers were not allowed to do so. He insisted and he was told he had better have a cup of tea. He was offered 15 cents but that was not enough for him, and he got 40 cents before he would go away. U Pak seemed to have lost some money at gambling, and Li Sing advanced him money on a watch to enable him to pay his debts. On the 26th March the prisoners went to 19, Circular Pathway, and asked Li Sing for the watch belonging to U Pak, the first prisoner producing his truncheon and threatening him, subsequently knocking him about. Not content with that he searched him and took \$15 from his pockets, the second prisoner preventing anyone from leaving the room. The watch was also taken from the prosecutor, but not content with this the prisoners took Li Sing to the Police Station and there the first prisoner charged him with illegally acting as pawnbroker. After investigating the matter the Inspector thought it his duty to prefer a charge against the lukong.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was reported.

The prisoners were found guilty, and the lukong was sentenced to three months hard labour and the other man to one month's hard labour.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE ARMED ROBBERY AT CAUSEWAY BAY.

Lam Choi, Hung Sing, Tung Chung, Tong Sheung, Hung Tai, Wong Tai Wan and Tam Kui were charged with (1) robbery being armed; (2) receiving stolen goods. They pleaded not guilty. Mr. Robinson appeared for some of the prisoners.

The jurors were Messrs. A. Muller, D. Haskell, K. P. Herbst, E. Kelly, E. Pereira E. S. Joseph, and J. A. Gubbins.

Mr. Pollock said there were two counts against the prisoners in this case. In the first count they were charged with armed robbery on the 6th April at the Coffee Plantation in this colony, and in the second count they were charged with receiving certain goods previously stolen at a place called Taian, well knowing at the time they received the goods that they were stolen. The evidence against the first, second, third, fourth, and possibly the seventh defendants was more or less of a circumstantial character as regarded the first count; that was to say that the jury would not have before them any evidence of any person absolutely identifying these people as having been present at the time of the robbery; but as regarded the fifth and sixth prisoners the jury had direct evidence against them that they actually took part in the robbery. One of the complainants in the case—a man called Yeung Yau—would tell the jury that at one o'clock in the early morning of the 6th April he and his wife were in a room in a wooden house at the coffee plantation behind the new cotton mill of Jardine, Matheson and Co., when three men entered. Yeung Yau would tell them that he could identify two of them—the fifth and sixth defendants—but not the third—and that each of these prisoners had a revolver in his hand. He would also tell the jury with regard to the sixth prisoner that he carried a torch, and that all the men had their faces whitened. They took away various articles belonging to Yeung Yau and also articles belonging to his wife Lam Lun, and to another person named Tam Wan, who was in a shed close by. The wife could identify the sixth prisoner but not the fifth. In addition to the men who came into the room were some men who remained outside, all going away together after the place had been ransacked. With regard to the sixth prisoner he might mention that he went up to the Police

Station and claimed some of the stolen property as his own, and while there he was identified as one of the robbers by Yeung Yau and his wife and arrested. There was one point he should mention in connection with the identification of the sixth prisoner, and that was the fact that he had some sort of mark on his cheek. The Inspector would tell the jury that prior to the man's arrest the husband said that one of the prisoners had a mark on his cheek. Then the fifth prisoner had a mark on his shoulder, and Yeung Yau made a point of first in his evidence. None of the men had coats on when they entered the house. The sixth prisoner was arrested at the Police Court, and five of the others were arrested by Sergeant Lacoek and some Chinese lukongs. This robbery took place at about one o'clock on the morning of the sixth inst. The police were promptly informed, and at about half-past five the police visited a mat-shed at Taian, which was behind the Polo Ground. There was a small footpath on leading from complainant's house to this mat-shed, the distance between the two being only about half a mile. Here the police found the first, third, and fourth prisoners sitting on a bed, and underneath some of the stolen property was found. The second prisoner was in another room and the seventh prisoner—a woman—was also there.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

The hearing was adjourned.

May, 22nd.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE ROBBERY AT CAUSEWAY BAY.

The trial of seven Chinese, including a woman, for being concerned in the robbery at Causeway Bay, was continued. The charge had been reduced to one of larceny. The case had not concluded when the Court rose.

23rd May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, K.T., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE SHELL-COLLECTING CASES—CHAU KWAI CHIU AND LAI KOK TSUN V. WONG SHING.

In this case the plaintiffs as lessees from Her Majesty the Queen of a certain piece or parcel of land covered by the sea on the eastern shore of the island of Lantau, in the colony of Hongkong, claimed from the defendant the sum of \$100 as damages for the wrongful acts of the defendant in trespassing upon the said premises and taking therefrom certain shells and corals, the property of the plaintiffs, and the plaintiffs also claimed the costs of suit.

The petition said—(1) the plaintiff are members of a firm called the Lee Hing and carry on business within this colony and its dependencies as gatherers of corals and shells for the purpose of agriculture and the manufacture of manure. (2) The defendant is the owner and master of a junk registered at the Harbour Office at Victoria, in this colony as No. 126 S.H. (3) By an agreement dated the 20th day of December, 1899, the Crown agreed to lease to the defendant a piece of ground covered by the sea and registered in the Land Office at Victoria aforesaid as Lantau Marine Lot No. 3, for a term of five years from the 31st of October, 1899, at an annual rent of \$300. One of the conditions of the said agreement was that the plaintiffs should use the said premises for the purpose only of searching for and obtaining corals or shells from the bed of the sea. (4) That on the 12th January, 1900, the defendant trespassed upon such premises, taking therefrom certain coral and shells, the property of the plaintiffs, converting the same to his own use and wrongfully depriving the plaintiffs of the possession thereof. The plaintiffs further pray (1) that the defendant may be ordered to pay them the sum of \$100 damages for the said trespass and conversion. (2) That the defendant may be ordered to pay them their costs of suit. (3) That the plaintiffs may have such other relief as to this honourable court shall seem fit.

In his answer the defendant admitted paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of the petition, and the answer continues:—(2) It is a condition of the agreement dated the 20th December, 1899, in paragraph 3 of the petition referred to, that the plaintiff use the premises thereby agreed to be demised so as not to interfere with fishing and navigation. (3) The said premises are situate beneath the waters of the open sea, and the defendant as a member of the general public has a prescriptive right of taking therefrom in a lawful and accustomed manner fish and all other natural products of the sea. (4) From a time exceeding the limits of living memory, Chinese fishermen have without let or hindrance, and in exercise of their lawful rights, taken by dredging the natural products of the sea as well as from the said premises as from the adjacent and surrounding waters and the land beneath such waters. (5) The said premises are situate within the district leased to Her Majesty the Queen by His Majesty the Emperor of China by and subject to the conditions contained in the Convention dated the 9th day of June, 1898. (6) It is a term of the said Convention that there shall be no expropriation of the inhabitants of the said district. (7) The defendant is an inhabitant of Sai Kok Tsui, situate within the said district, and has a right to take the noticed products of the sea including shells and corals from the said premises. (8) The defendant denies that on the 12th January, 1900, he entered on the said premises and took therefrom corals or shells as is alleged in the petition or at all, but says that if he did enter the said premises, which he denies, that he entered thereon while engaged in fishing for shell fish by dredging in a lawful and accustomed manner, and that he took only shell fish obtained by such dredging together with other substances unavoidably brought up by the dredges, together with the shell fish for which he was seeking. (9) The defendant denies that he trespassed on the said premises, or that the shells and coral on the said premises are the property of the plaintiffs, and says that by reason of the matters herein-after set forth he has the right to enter on the said premises and to take therefrom coral and shells, which are natural products of the sea, or alternatively that he has the right to enter on the said premises and to dredge for shell fish thereon in an accustomed manner, and to take and convert to his own use whatever natural products of the sea his dredges may bring up.

Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Messrs Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendant.

The Chief Justice—Have you gentlemen made any arrangements as to the course of the case, so to speak?

Mr. Sharp said they had tried to arrange mutual admissions of fact, but though he did not suppose his friend had been wrong at all in the course he had taken; at the same time he asked them to admit facts they had no knowledge of. For instance, he asked them to admit that the defendant was an inhabitant of a certain place. They knew nothing about the defendant. He might be an inhabitant of a certain place or he might not. He was quite prepared to make certain admissions of fact, because he thought his friend and himself felt that this was an argument of law and very slightly an argument of fact. His own impression was that it was not at all an argument of fact. He believed his friend would not entirely agree with him there, but they were quite prepared to make all admissions which their Lordships thought they should make, but they could not admit what they did not know anything about.

The Chief Justice—Perhaps the most convenient course would be to prove the facts and have the general argument afterwards.

Mr. Slade said that with reference to proving that the man was an inhabitant of a certain place, as soon as his friend said he did not know of course he did not require any admission on the subject. He was perfectly prepared to assume it. The only question which was between them was whether or not they would admit that the defendant, or rather Chinese fishermen generally, had fished, in these waters as far back as living memory extended, without any objection being taken to

them. That was the point about which they differed.

Mr. Sharp said he was perfectly prepared to admit that Chinese fishermen had been in the habit of dredging for these shells and this coral as far back as living memory extended.

The Chief Justice said that if there was no agreement between counsel they had better go on. He understood that the facts would be taken and then the Court would be addressed on the facts and the law together.

Mr. Slade said the facts would take a very short time. There was no dispute between them. He could not understand how they could not come to an agreement.

Mr. Sharp said that this was a matter of ancient war between these itinerant poachers and the lessees, and it would be impossible for him to admit that "without let or hindrance" these men had done this.

The Chief Justice—Very well; go on with your case.

Mr. Sharp said he thought he need not open this case at any length at all. The facts upon which the plaintiffs relied were no doubt almost within the knowledge of their Lordships. As their Lordships were aware, a convention was entered into between Her Majesty the Queen and the Emperor of China in the year 1898 for an extension of the colony of Hongkong. No doubt certain terms and expressions used in that convention would have to be settled, and the nature of the tenure which the Crown had in respect of the property within the area of the extension. Within the area added to the colony of Hongkong by the convention of 1898 were sundry coral and shell beds, as they were called. The material seemed to be rather dead shells than corals. He thought he would be able to satisfy their Lordships that many of these coral and shell beds within the limits of what was called the New Territory had before the acquisition of the New Territory by Great Britain been granted under lease or concession by the Chinese authorities to Chinese subjects. He did not suppose that all had, probably only the most valuable. He thought he should be able to satisfy their Lordships that an ancient war, going back as far as living memory, had waged between these itinerant dredgers, or poachers, and the concessionaires of these shell beds. Such of these shell beds which had not been leased from the Chinese authorities were regarded as open ground by these itinerant dredgers, and no doubt they were. On the 14th October last year a lease of a shell bed known as marine lot No. 1, off Lantau Island, was granted to some people, one of whom was called Lai Kau. This lease was similar to the one before their Lordships that day. The granting of this lease in October last was followed by an outcry and a protest from the itinerant dredgers, one of whom was defended by his friend that day, who claimed a prescriptive right to gather these corals and shells and that the Government were precluded from granting any lease. This protest and petition were considered by the Government. Enquiry was made, and the result of that enquiry was to ascertain that the concessionaire of this particular shell bed was able to sell his lime more cheaply than other people.

Mr. Slade said his learned friend's address was very interesting, but as far as he had gone he did not know that he had said one word which was strictly evidence in the case.

Mr. Sharp—I am going to call evidence.

Mr. Slade—I shall object.

The Chief Justice said it did not strictly relate to the case but might help to a clearer understanding.

Mr. Sharp, continuing, said that as the result of the enquiry these petitions were dismissed, and thereupon the plaintiffs applied to the Government for a lease for marine lot No. 2, which lay alongside marine lot No. 1, and a lease was granted upon similar terms and for a similar period as the other lease on the 20th December. The granting of the lease was followed by the patrolling of the leased area by the police, in consequence of complaints made by lessees of marine lot No. 1. The result was that on the 12th January this year the defendant was arrested in his junk in the act of dredging for this material within the area of the lease.

Inspector Kemp deposed that on the 12th January the owners of five junks were brought

to the Water Police Station at Tsim Tsa Tsui charged with dredging for coral in a prescribed area south of Lantau Island. The masters of the junks were charged separately with larceny of varying quantities of coral. They were all bailed out and the cases came up at the Police Court the following day.

In reply to Mr. Slade, the witness said the men were brought to the Water Police Station by Sergeant Kerr. The coral was cleared out of the junks and placed in the Police Yard. When the case was dismissed at the Police Court the owners of the junks got the coral back, except a sample which was kept back.

The Chief Justice—What became of the cases in the Police Court?

Inspector Kemp—Dismissed, your Lordship.

Sergeant Kerr gave evidence as to the arrest of the junk-owners caught dredging. He added that he asked them if they knew they required permission to gather shells and they said no.

Mr. Slade, in consequence of certain questions being put to the witness, said he was prepared to admit. That the stuff got up in the locality in question was practically all dead shells. They were not dredging for food, but for manure.

Mr. Sharp said that that would simplify his evidence, because in the pleadings the point was raised as to fishing for live fish.

Chau Kwai Chiu, one of the plaintiffs and since December 20th last year a member of the Li Hing firm, gave evidence. Ho Kan Chi, a boy in his employ as patrol, also gave evidence.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd, deputy land officer, and in charge of the Land Office, was asked by Mr. Sharp whether any claims had been made in respect of leases from the Chinese authorities in regard to coral or shell beds like the lease in dispute.

Mr. Slade said he objected to the question on the ground that it was perfectly irrelevant, if these claims did not refer to this particular piece of land.

The objection was over-ruled.

Mr. Shepherd then answered that several claims had been made in respect of grants of fishing rights, including the right to gather shells. The difference between the grant of the Chinese authorities and the grant in question was that the Chinese grant included the right of fishing while the present grant of the Hongkong Government excluded the right of fishing. These claims had been supported by documentary evidence. He produced a lease in Chinese and said he had also proclamations issued by the Chinese Government as to these matters.

The Chief Justice—There ought to be some more direct proof. We should have someone conversant with Chinese law.

On being asked by the court if these claims had been recognised and registered by the British Government, Mr. Shepherd replied—We have not recognised any claim until the constitution of the Naval Court.

The Chief Justice—All that has been done has been to note these claims without recognising their validity.

Mr. Shepherd—We recognise their validity by taken their rents, subject to their proving their title to the satisfaction of the Land Court. We do not mind who pays the rent.

Mr. Slade—If anybody wants to pay the rent the Land Court takes it.

Mr. Shepherd—The Treasury takes it on the production of a certificate from the Land Office, which is based upon such enquiries as they are able to make.

Mr. Slade said he did not seriously deny that his client was on marine lot No. 2, scraping up stuff of this kind—call it coral or what they would—from the bottom of the sea. But he said he was entitled to do it, and his title to do it rested upon long and undisputed doing of the same thing by Chinese fishermen as far back as living memory could go. He should prove that by a series of witnesses whom he should call. One or two of them were very old men who had been in the business from their boyhood. Their ages were between 60 and 70. He did hope to get an old gentleman who he believed was over 80, but on further enquiry he found he was blind and deaf, so that it would be impossible for him to give his evidence. This man was the father of the defendant. He should prove that these fishermen

had been doing the same thing in the same place or neighbourhood for years.

At this point Mr. Sharp read a letter addressed to Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings. This letter, which Mr. Sharp said he had not seen before, admitted that it had been the practice of Chinese fishermen to dredge in this locality for years. He added that it was not part of his case that this marine lot had been previously leased.

After this admission the point was raised as to whether it would be necessary to call the witnesses mentioned by Mr. Slade.

At the suggestion of the Chief Justice, counsel agreed to confer during tiffin to see if an agreement could be come to on this point.

After tiffin it was announced that such an agreement had been come to.

Wong Sing, the defendant, then gave evidence, stating that he knew Sai Kok Tsui, his junk being anchored there.

In summing up, Mr. Slade submitted that the defendant lived within the leased area, was an inhabitant of a district included within the extension, and that by the Government granting this lease to the plaintiffs he had been expropriated of a right which he previously possessed. He did not think it would be disputed that if he established that the defendant had a right to fish or dredge by the lease granted to the plaintiffs he had been deprived of that right. Mr. Slade argued at some length on this and other points of law.

Mr. Sharp replied at some length, contending that even if the defendant was an inhabitant of the New Territory, even if he had acquired a prescriptive right, and even if it was a case of expropriation. Within the meaning of the Convention, the matter was one not reviewable by a Municipal Court.

Their Lordships reserved their decision.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN HONGKONG.

On Thursday last Her Majesty the Queen was 81 years old. The day was fittingly celebrated in Hongkong. All the ships in the harbour were decorated, and at noon salutes were fired by the warships, the U.S. *Brooklyn* leading the way.

In the afternoon the troops of the Garrison and the men of the Royal Navy in the colony paraded at Happy Valley; thousands of spectators, the weather being favourable, were present to witness them. The Royal Welch Fusiliers trooped the colours at five o'clock, the navy men and the Hongkong Regiment being formed up on the flanks. At half-past five the men marched past in column, then massed, and afterwards in line of quarter column. They then formed up in line of column on former alignment, and advanced in review order, concluding with a Royal Salute and three cheers for the Queen, H.E. the Acting Governor (Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G.) leading off. The whole affair was generally noted a great success.

The following are the details:—Field Officer of the Day, Major A. F. Cooper; Brigade Major, Capt. J. H. Gwynne; Adjutant of the Day, Lieut. A. Hay; Officer carrying the Colour, 2nd Lieut. W. G. Vyvyan; Escort for the Colour, Capt. H. M. Richards and Lieut. H. Rosherhom; 2nd Guard, Lieut. G. J. P. Geiger; 3rd Guard, Lieut. F. J. Walwyn; 4th Guard, Lieut. R. I. B. Johnson; 5th Guard, Lieut. O. S. Flower; 6th Guard, Major S. G. Everitt. Lieut.-Col. Hon. R. H. Bertie was in command of the R.W.F.

Captain Misu, Commander of the Japanese battleship *Asahi*, telegraphed from Portsmouth to the Japanese Government on the 15th that the battleship was docked there on the 14th inst. No special damage to her bottom was found and she is expected to come out of dock in a fortnight. The necessary preparations for the voyage out will be commenced then and the ship will leave England toward the middle of June.

His cricketing friends in Singapore and Hongkong will be sorry to hear that Captain George Paley, 1st Rifle Brigade, who was so seriously wounded in the early part of the war, is still very ill, and not able to do anything. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Paley, who live near Bury St. Edmunds. Though quiet and unassuming, he was one of the most popular young officers of the Battalion, and was immensely liked here.—*Singapore Free Press*.

THE RELIEF OF MAFeking.

SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The relief of Mafeking was specially recognised in St. John's Cathedral on the 20th inst. The service was commenced with the singing of the National Anthem by the choir and congregation, and the special hymn "Now thank we all our God" was also sung.

The Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., the Chaplain, preached a very eloquent sermon dealing with the event, taking for his text Psalm civ 22. "O Speak good of the Lord, all ye works of His, in all places of His dominion praise thou the Lord, O my soul." He said:—There is no one amongst you, my brethren, to-day who has misunderstood, and none I think failed to take part in, the singing of the National Anthem with which we began our service this morning. Though the relief of that seven months' besieged garrison in South Africa, in which we happily at length rejoice, has been brought about by a combination of causes—by the strategical plan conceived in the mind of the Commander-in-Chief; by the stalwart execution of his commands by those soldiers of the Queen who pressed forward from north and south to succour their beleaguered comrades; and by the heroic defence of the garrison and the citizens themselves—though the proper meed of praise will be accorded by a proud, a grateful, and a loyal Empire to all those who have so nobly achieved this victory: yet it must be in all our hearts to say,—and this is the proper place to say it—"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name, give the praise; for Thy loving mercy, and for Thy truth's sake." Head, and hand, and heart, sustained by the Almighty power of God, have been strained to the utmost, and a great defence has been maintained for more than twice as long as the historic defence of Lucknow, 43 years ago (July—September 25, 1857).

We have watched, and we have waited, and the prayers of a Nation have gone up to heaven to make them brave in death or in life, to put their trust in God. It has been as though we were watching and waiting and praying by the bed-side of one who had been laid low by a horrible accident, as though we were powerless to bring help, or bind up the broken limbs: only able occasionally to convey a message of hope, a word of comfort, a promise of help. And just as sometimes in the crisis of a dangerous illness, when aid is far or unavailing, a sudden turn comes, and the patient recovers, and we say: It was his strong constitution and his indomitable courage which pulled him through, so it was the strong British fibre, and the buoyant faith and courage of the little garrison of Mafeking which, through seven long months of siege, heroically endured unto the end, and was saved. "We can hold out with care."

"Handful of men that they were, they were British in heart and in limb; Strong with the strength of the race to command, to obey, to endure, Each of them fought as if hope of the garrison hung but on him."

Those words, written of the defence of Lucknow, might have been written of our soldier-citizens and citizen-soldiers of to-day, when the whole Empire rings with a glad thanksgiving that "by the blessing of Heaven" and by the valour of her sons, gathered together from all parts of the world, many have been redeemed from suffering and from death, the uniting strength and stability of the Empire have been abundantly proved, the progress of a God-fearing people unimpeded, and the Kingdom of the Redeemer slowly but surely expanded. For, let it be remembered, that we are a Christian People—not fanatically carrying the Bible in one hand and the rifle in the other, yet going forth not forgetting God even in the day of battle, remembering Him in defeat or in victory; and we must carry with us, into new countries, under new circumstances, in new opportunities, that spirit of truth, justice, and charity, which has, by the grace of God, made us what we are. If the Kingdom of Christ is not carried with us wherever we go, all our successes in life, all our victories, personal and national, will be of no avail for the consummation of the purpose of Almighty God. From the very first we have confidently commended our soldiers and our sailors, and all who labour with them, and suffer

with them, into the hands of a Righteous Father because we are a Christian people, and because we mean to maintain the religion of our fathers. And though many be left sleeping beneath the sunny wind-swept veldt of South Africa; though hearts are sorrowing at the last long "leave of absence" of comrade, child, father or friend, yet we can have it so, because we know that they have done their duty; and the same teaching which makes us sure our cause is right, bids us look for a blessed reunion of severed lives, and a happy restoration of suspended joy. It is not the time yet, perhaps, to speak of the lessons of this great war—it will be later when it is over. But right at the back of all our strength and success, is the strong conviction that our cause is true and just. It is as though God had said to us, as the angel said to Gideon, "Go in this thy might" (Judges vi. 14). Right at the foundation of all our lives, helping us to bear sorrow, aiding us in our prayers, sanctifying our thanksgiving, is our faith in Him, that He Himself is with us, that "underneath are the everlasting arms." If it were not so, if we did not firmly believe that we were amply justified in accepting the arrogant challenge of an erring and misguided Boer, we could not go on; our gallant soldiers and sailors could not have done what they have done; the nation could not have prayed for the success of our arms as it has done; we could not now offer our thanks to Almighty God for his great deliverance from a great danger. How appropriately came those words we have sung to-day in the 103rd Psalm—appropriate to the Nation appropriate to the individual:—

"The merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him: and His righteousness upon children's children."

THE TRAGEDY IN THE HARBOUR.

ENQUIRY AT THE MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY.

VERDICT:—"DEATH BY MISADVENTURE."

At the Magistracy on the 21st inst. Mr. Gornitz held an enquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Alexander Reid, second officer on board the steamer *Royalist*, who died on the 18th inst. The steward of the *Royalist*, Charles Black, who was arrested in the first instance on a charge of wilful murder subsequently reduced to one of manslaughter, was present in Court.

Dr. Harston said—On May 18th I was called to the S.S. *Royalist*, lying at No. 2 wharf, Kowloon, at about 11.30 a.m. I was shown a wounded man lying on his back in the cabin of the captain on the ship. I examined him and found a recent bullet wound over the left collar bone from which blood was flowing. On examining his back I could feel the bullet lying just under the skin internal to the left shoulder blade. The wounded man was in a state of extreme collapse and showed symptoms of severe internal hemorrhage. He had on, as far as I can remember, a coat and waistcoat which were opened. He had no trousers on. There was slight bruising of the skin round the wound, but no singing of it or of the beard. I put on a pressure bandage and left the ship, going to the office of the Kowloon Godowns, where I telephoned for an ambulance. On returning to the ship I found the wounded man even more collapsed. His position had been slightly changed. He expired within five minutes of my return to the ship. There must have been very severe internal hemorrhage during my absence. My note-book has the entry made by myself at the time, "Died at 11.52." Had the muzzle of the weapon been very close to the deceased when the shot was fired I should have expected to find the beard singed.

Dr. J. C. Thomson said—On May 19th, at the Public Mortuary at 11.30 a.m., with Dr. Harston, I made an examination of the body of a European male adult identified in my presence by Mr. Reginald Morton, chief officer, s.s. *Royalist*, and Mr. B. J. Pinkham, third officer, as the body of Alexander Reid. I found a gunshot wound on the chest, the bullet entering over the middle of the left clavicle, fracturing the clavicle and the second rib, tearing the left sub-clavian vein, which was almost cut in two. It passed between the second and third ribs behind, and lodged under the skin of the back at the inner border

of the left shoulder blade, almost an inch above the angle. The left side of the chest was full of blood. I produce the bullet. The cause of death was hemorrhage internal and external, due to a gunshot wound of burning of the skin. The muzzle of the weapon must have been at least several inches from the wound. The bullet marked "A" seems about the same size as these marked "B" now shown to me.

Samuel F. Tierney, captain of the *Royalist*, said—I was on shore in Hongkong at about 10.30 a.m. on Friday when I received certain information. I returned to the ship and saw the second officer lying on the floor in my room with the Medical Officer in attendance. He had a shot wound in the left breast from which he expired about noon. I keep this rifle, which is a repeater, loaded upon the wall of my cabin with a revolver, which is also kept loaded. I always clean the rifle myself. I have never allowed the steward to touch it. I could not say if the second officer or if the steward knew that the rifle was loaded. The steward looks after my room and makes the bed. The second officer has no right to be in my cabin at all except to put the chronometer there and go away again. The second officer was on watch from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. that day. I know nothing of any enmity or any cause for ill-will between deceased and the second officer. The second officer was named Alexander Reid. He was, I think, 26 years old. The steward, Charles Black, I believe to be 24 years old.

In answer to Black witness said—Last time I cleaned the gun was just before I got to Singapore. Up to then it lay in the locker. After cleaning it I loaded it and put it on the bulk head. I am quite sure the rifle was loaded in Singapore.

B. J. Pinkham, third officer of the *Royalist*, said—At 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 18th May, I was standing at No. 2 hatch looking after cargo. I was from 20 to 30 feet away from deceased. I heard the report of a firearm, and 30 or 40 seconds later I went to the door of the passage leading to the Captain's cabin. I met there the steward, Charles Black, who said to me, "I have shot the second mate." I put my head into the Captain's cabin and saw the second mate lying on his back upon the floor. I immediately telephoned from the godown at the end of our wharf to call a doctor. On my way to the gangway I met the chief officer and told him what had happened. When I looked into the cabin I saw the rifle in the rack, but not quite in its proper place. It was at a cant. It looks as if it had been put up in a hurry. When I came back I found the steward attending with ice and water and wanting to know if there was anything he could do. I have shared a cabin with deceased for about two months a half. The steward occupies the next cabin to ours. We have always been on friendly terms, and to the best of my belief the steward and the deceased were on the best of terms. I have never heard of any ill-will or cause for ill-will between them. Shortly before we got to Singapore I offered to clean this rifle for the Captain after he had been shooting porpoises. He said that no one on board touched the weapon but himself. He declined my offer with thanks.

Arthur William Ringrove, chief engineer on the *Royalist*, said—Between 10 or 11 a.m. on Friday last I was in the cabin amidships talking to the chief officer. I heard a noise like the report of a firearm, and a shout, either "Call the mate," or "Where is the mate?" I went into the Captain's bed-room and saw the second mate lying on the floor there. I remained there with the second engineer until the second mate died. The steward, Charles Black, stood by getting us whatever we required. The deceased said once, "That was a silly trick." Those were his words as near as I can remember. He said nothing else which might have referred to what had happened, but he asked for water, which we gave him. I did not hear the steward make any statement referring to what had happened. I could not say where the steward was when I got into the cabin nor where the rifle was. I gave all my attention to the wounded man. There was no ill-will or ill-feeling between the steward and deceased. They were the best of friends. I did not leave the cabin from the time I saw the second mate lying wounded up to the time that he died.

John Joseph Haynes, apprentice on the s.s. *Royalist*, said—On Friday last, between 10 and

11 a.m., I was standing outside the door of the passage leading to the Captain's cabin. I heard a report and looked round. Seeing nothing I then looked in at the Captain's room. I saw Mr. Reid lying on the floor, with his left hand on his left breast. He said, "Call the mate." I immediately called out to the first officer, who came up in about half a minute. I then had to go on deck to my work. I did not hear the deceased say anything about what had happened. I did not see the steward at all till he came up with the mate. I did not hear him say anything. As far as I know deceased and the steward were always on friendly terms. I have heard of no ill-feeling between them. I was standing quite close to the Captain's cabin when I heard the report. I did not hear either deceased or the steward Black say anything before the report. Had their voices been roused I must have heard them.

Inspector Gould said—At 12.45 p.m. on May 18th I took the clothing produced from the floor of the cabin in the *Royalist* where deceased was lying. The clothes, which were stained with blood, appeared to have been cut off the deceased. The deceased was dead when I arrived. I took defendant to Tsimsatsui Station, and entered against him a charge of wilful murder. I read over to him the usual caution and asked him if he wished to say anything. He made a statement which I took down to him and he signed it in writing. I then read it as correct. I produce it now. I brought away from the cabin the rifle produced which I found on a rack in the Captain's cabin. In the station I examined the rifle and found therein the empty cartridge shell produced and the nine unexploded cartridges produced. I sent the body of deceased to the Mortuary by P. C. Faherty.

James Reginald Morton, first officer on the *Royalist*, said—On Friday morning last, at about 10.708, I was talking to the engineer in the officers' cabin when I heard a report, and someone called out "Send for the mate." I immediately rushed out and saw the deceased lying on the floor of the Captain's cabin. I said, "How did this happen?" He said, "The steward was showing me the gun and he was fooling with it." I told the third officer to telephone for the doctor. I cannot say with certainty whether the steward was present when deceased made this remark or not. I then went up on deck attending to the ship's business. Deceased and the steward were on very friendly terms. I cannot say whether the Captain's rifle was usually kept loaded or not.

Charles Black having been duly cautioned by the court said—I am steward on the s.s. *Royalist*. I have nothing to add to my previous statement. The second officer asked me for the key of the Captain's room. I gave it to him and went in with him, as I am not allowed to let any one in there alone. He looked round the room and wanted to know about the gun. I did not know the rifle was loaded. I had no ill-will against the deceased. I have never before had one of these rifles in my hand. That is all I have to say. I stayed speaking to the deceased after he fell down. I have nothing further to add.

His Worship, addressing Black, said he was arrested by the police on a charge of wilful murder, which was afterwards reduced to one of manslaughter, the punishment for which might have been imprisonment for life. But after hearing the evidence, he had come to the conclusion that the death of deceased was the result of an accident. He thought Black must feel he was guilty of great foolishness. He had been the cause of the death of another person. He was sure it was a matter he would regret all his life. The charge would be dismissed, and Black could go.

The verdict returned was, "Death from misadventure."

The death is announced at Peking of pleurisy of Piere Louis Gaillard, S. J., author of *Cross and Swastika in China* and the *Plan of Nanking* in the "Variétés Sinologiques." He was born at Paris in 1850. He was, says *The N.C. Daily News*, a man of great talents, charming manners, and refined and cultivated taste, and was entirely devoted to his work. In his premature death the Kiangnan Mission to which he belonged suffers a very marked loss.

BURGLARY IN BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

MR. MUMFORD'S OFFICE RANSACKED.

On arriving at his office in Beaconsfield Arcade at about 12 o'clock at noon yesterday Mr. Mumford, Lloyds' Surveyor, found his staff in a state of great excitement in consequence of the place having been visited by burglars during the previous evening. The coolie found the door burst open when he arrived at about eight o'clock in the morning. Mr. Mumford's Chinese clerk appeared on the scene shortly afterwards, but the police were not informed, as Mr. Mumford was expected to arrive any minute. He was, however, later than usual in consequence of his having gone straight to Aberdeen to do some surveying.

The burglars had evidently spent some considerable time in the office, and were preparing to make a big haul, when they were apparently disturbed and had to hurriedly decamp. In addition to his office furniture, etc., Mr. Mumford had a considerable quantity of household goods stored in his room, including clothing, silverware, wines, and spirits, which Mr. Mumford proposed to remove to his residence at the Peak. The burglars had got a quantity of silver, cigars, etc., packed up in boxes ready to take away, and had demolished a Genoa cake which had been left in a drawer. The drawers of Mr. Mumford's desk had been forced, but fortunately no money had been left there except in the form of cheques, which were not interfered with. Everything was, however, upside down. A determined attempt had been made to open the safe but without success. The burglars had made use of some tools left on the premises having removed the brass work of the safe and prised open some half-dozen inches of the top of the safe. We understand that nothing has been missed but a clock, a musical box, two new hats, a razor, and an umbrella. This is the third time Mr. Mumford's office has been broken into. On the second occasion the sum of \$80 was stolen.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. R. T. Wright) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund.

Further contributions will be thankfully received.

Already acknowledged	\$34,831.03
Entertainments in City Hall	1,293.66
Officers and Men H.M.S. <i>Undaunted</i>	275.48
Hongkong-Singapore Battalion, R.A.	154
Sergeants 2nd Batt. R.W. Fusiliers	79
First Presbyterian Church, Canton	22
Second Presbyterian Church, Canton.	
Ladies Seminary \$40	
Second Presbyterian Church, Canton.	71
Other members \$31	18
Third Presbyterian Church, Canton	
Additional True Light Seminary, Canton	10
Additional Second Church, Canton	3
Yeung Kong Church and "Missionaries, Canton	20
"A.B."	30
K. Edulji Vaid	3
D. H. Vasania	2

\$36,812.17

It is announced that a new section has opened in the Tung Wen Kuan, Canton, for the study of French, and that Mr. Martel, formerly of Hongkong, has been appointed teacher by H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang.

The *Straits Times* of the 15th inst. contain as very vigorously written leading article on "Municipal Extravagance," referring to the decision of the Municipal Commissioners to buy part of the present site of the Hotel de l'Europe for £30,000, working out at 117,000 feet at \$2½ per foot. The Supreme Court is to be temporarily housed there. Our contemporary points out that about a year ago the Commission refused to sanction the spending of \$120,000 on a Diamond Jubilee Memorial Hall, because \$20,000 extra might be required for alterations, and characterises the present action as extravagant, immoral, and a breach of good faith.

THE POPULATION OF HONGKONG.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1899 gives some figures about the population of Hongkong. The Population of the Colony at the Census taken in 1891 was found to be 221,441 and at the Census taken in 1897 it was 248,880.

The following is the estimated population to the middle of 1899:—

Non-Chinese population	8,915
Chinese Population.	
City of Victoria including Peak and Stonecutters Island	168,260
Villages of Hongkong and Kowloon	40,530
Floating Population	34,700
Total Chinese Population	243,490
Army	3,520
Navy	3,385

Total Population of the colony 259,310

The Chinese boat population of the Colony has been estimated to the middle of the year to have been 34,700; this figure cannot, however, be relied upon as necessarily accurate, for owing to an error in the census returns for 1891 pointed out in the Annual Report for last year, a correct basis for calculating this population is wanting. It would appear, however, that there has been a steady increase in the floating population and at the census taken in 1897 it was found to number 33,275.

The number of boats licensed in 1898 was 10,150, and in 1897 was 9,954.

The population of the Colony is classified primarily into Chinese and Non-Chinese, the former being greatly in the majority. The Non-Chinese comprise a white population of 13,060 of whom 6,155 are civilians and the remainder belong to the Army or the Navy. The coloured races number 2,760 and comprise East Indians, Malays, Filipinos and a few Africans.

The white civilian population was shown at the 1897 census to consist of 2,374 British, 2,276 Portuguese, and a sprinkling of Americans, Germans, French, and other Europeans.

The population is essentially a male adult one, as no less than 70.9 per cent. of the Chinese population and 58.6 per cent. of the Non-Chinese population are males, while more than half the population (55.9 per cent. of the Chinese and 52.6 per cent. of the Non-Chinese) are between the ages of 20 and 45. The proportion of Great Britain between these ages is only 33.8 per cent.

JAPANESE SAFETY MATCHES.

REPLY OF THE KOBE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

According to the *Osaka Asahi*, the Kobe Chamber of Commerce has replied to the communication from the Hongkong Chamber, with regard to the dangerous character of Japanese "safety" matches. The Chamber denies that any dangerous materials are used in their manufacture. The attention of the Guild of Match Manufacturers was, however, called to the matter, and at a general meeting of the Guild the decision arrived at was that there was no better method of manufacturing than that now adopted. It was acknowledged that the matches might explode through friction with the nails used in fastening up the cases in which they are packed, and it was stated that more attention would be paid to the packing. The method of manufacture is also to be investigated.

The *Osaka* journal learns from a gentleman who recently returned from a tour in Southern Asia that the chief defects in Japanese matches are that the sticks are very liable to break, and that as the boxes are very carelessly made, they are easily broken. Our contemporary says the *Kobe Chronicle*, need hardly have gone to the traveller in Southern Asia to discover these defects, as a little experimenting at home would soon have brought these facts to light. Another point is that the glowing ends of Japanese matches after the flame is extinguished are very apt to drop off—a very dangerous defect. That Japanese "safety" matches will often ignite upon very slight friction is a fact, also, of which most people are aware by practical experience.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 19th May.

THE BOMANJEE CASE.

With reference to the case of Mr. Bomanjee whose ten bales of cotton yarn were robbed about the end of April, several thieves have been arrested in Hoyuin, Kwangsi, by Lieutenant Chan Kum Cheong of the Sew Hing garrison. At the trial before the Ko-yew Magistrate it appeared from the evidence of Pang Ping Kai and others that the cotton yarn has been sold to Ting Hing Lee and another shop in the Lo Ting district, and that the two shops have been seized and closed by order of the Magistrate. The shop owners in their petition alleged that they did not know anything of the case, that they purchased only four bales of the yarn with no idea that they were stolen goods, and that they were willing to surrender them, and as to the rest of the cargo, they did not know anything. The magistrate sent the case up to the Viceroy, upon which H.E. remarked *inter alia* that the captain Pang Ping Kai had evidently conspired with the pirates to rob, that the magistrate has been very careful and painstaking in investigating this case, and that he hopes that the ringleader and his associates will be arrested, and the rest of the stolen property recovered.

A VISITOR GETS A SHOCK.

On the 17th ult. four or five foreign gentlemen went into the city with a guide to see the different places of interest; and at last when they visited the Nam Hoi Magistrate's Court one of them turned pale, and fainted, partly at the sight of the cruel tortures that he witnessed, and partly from the stifling heat and the ill smelling crowd in the close room. The *yamen* runners and the usher quickly rendered their assistance, one procuring water, another tea, and another blowing some medicinal powder up his nose, and in a minute or two he recovered, and all went away in chairs to Shameen. A person of delicate and sensitive feelings should not run the risk of seeing spectacles.

A BOAT ACCIDENT.

A steam-launch, the *Chon Wai*, taking a wheel-boat fully laden with kerosine in tow from Hongkong on the night of the 14th ult., passed the anchorage of the flower-boats, and ran down a Shatiang boat manned by a family of seven persons, smashing her and throwing the occupants thereof into the water, two being drowned.

A WELL DESERVED PRIZE.

At the annual fête of the goddess of childbirth there was a large match erected at Honam in which were exhibited different effigies handsomely dressed in silk and satin, lamps and chandeliers, flowers and birds, such as parrots, thrushes, robins, and many curios were shown. One young man brought a valuable cage with a thrush in it, accompanied by four soldiers, to the exhibition. The cage was of solid gold, inlaid with rubies, diamonds, and jade stones of the value of over \$3,000, and he carried off the first prize, a silver medal and silk flags. About this time last year a Portuguese also brought a cage with a thrush in it of the value of over \$1,000, and won the first prize.

A NEW RAPE OF THE LOCK.

There is a secret queue-cutting society, composed of rogues and vagabonds, who go about in the streets and back-lanes, and frequent the theatre and joss-exhibitions, and secretly cut the queues of anybody who is unaware of their presence. A few well-dressed and respectable men are known to have had their queues cut.

His Honour T. Sercombe Smith sat until nine o'clock at the Supreme Court on Monday night for the purpose of finishing the hearing of the armed robbery case at Causeway Bay, six men and one woman being charged with (1) robbery being armed; (2) receiving stolen goods. The jury found the fifth and sixth prisoners guilty on both the counts, and they were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour, and to receive 20 strokes with the birch rod during the first week of their imprisonment. The first, second, third and fourth prisoners were found guilty on the second count only and sentenced to two years' hard labour. The woman was discharged.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SPANISH REGISTRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

—SPAIN ACCUSED OF REPUDIATING SPANISH COLONISTS.

Manila, 16th May.

The eleventh day of April was the date agreed upon by the Paris Commission as the end of the period during which Spanish residents of the Philippines might register their intention of remaining Spaniards. As a matter of fact the time has been extended, but the general public is but poorly informed on the subject. Up to the middle of April the office in Manila where such declarations are recorded was crowded with those who had procrastinated, leaving things until the last minute. Article 9 of the Paris Treaty of Peace provided that Spanish residents of former Spanish colonies should have one year's time in which to declare their adhesion to Spain, failing which they will adopt the nationality of the country where they reside. Some two thousand five hundred Spaniards have registered in Manila and there are still several hundred who would like to register, but cannot do so of account of certain clauses in the Peace Treaty.

The Spanish Commissioners in Paris last year introduced a clause which practically amounts to the repudiation of Spanish colonists. This clause says that Spaniards, born in Spain, and residing in her colonies, shall have the right to remain Spanish subjects. Consequently a man born of Spanish parents in the Colonies has no right to Spanish nationality and hundreds of Spaniards of this latter category have been denied permission to remain subjects of Spain and are to-day Filipinos and nothing more.

This ruling of the Spanish Commissioners, that to be a Spaniard a man must be born in Spain is in direct contradiction to the Spanish Civil code, which says in Article 17, clause two, "The offspring of a Spanish father and mother, born outside of Spain, is a Spaniard." Why Spain wanted to repudiate Spaniards born in her colonies is hard to understand, unless it be that by so doing she has cleared her skirts of a number of future prisoners and this interpretation of her action is generally accepted by the Spaniards themselves. As an instance, there are men in Manila born of Spanish parents in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and out here who have been long in the Spanish Army and Civil service, some of them drawing pensions, while others would soon do so; but now for these men this keep and hope are gone, because they are no longer Spaniards, but Filipinos. Under the Spanish law a woman is of the same nationality as her husband; hence a Spanish-born woman who has married a Filipino-born husband is a Filipino and not a Spaniard. This results in the loss, to a good many Spanish women out here, of certain small pensions from Spain which up to the present they have enjoyed, I am assured that the number of government pensioners which Spain gets rid of in her former colonies by this action is considerable, and that the yearly sum saved to the Crown thereby is large.

AMERICAN REGISTRATION.

The United States Government has supplied the printed blanks upon which these Spaniards registered their allegiance and the records have been taken under American supervision. Blanks have been sent very generally throughout the islands, but less than fifty have been used outside of Manila. In Manila all the priests have registered, likewise all the Dominican, Recoletos, Franciscan and Augustinian friars; the Jesuits have not registered, it being their contention that they are without nationality. The Spanish nurses and sisters of charity in and about Manila have officially declared their intentions of remaining Spanish and so have a large number of coastwise sailormen and steamer officers. In order that this registration may become binding and legal, it must be repeated at the office of the Spanish Consul in Manila, these are the records that are returned to Spain, while those taken under American supervision remain on file here. Among the colonial-born Spaniards who have been denied Spanish citizenship are many prominent and some wealthy men. Such a man, whose wife and children were all born in Spain, is about to take his family from here to Paris, and he

has asked the American military authorities if he and his family, as Filipinos, will be accorded the protection of the United States should occasion therefor arise while they are on foreign soil. The question is interesting.

On March 29th, a protocol extending six months from April 11th was signed at the State Department by Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State, and the Duke d'Arcos, the Spanish Minister. Owing to the unsettled conditions in the Philippines the Spaniards here have hesitated in many instances in declaring their allegiance, particularly in places where an American Government has not been established. The fear that the islands may not be held permanently by the United States is another cause for hesitation.

THE RUSH TO REGISTER IN CUBA.

Advices from Cuba state that in view of the limited time (April 11th) there was a great scramble there during the last two weeks, about the registry offices. In Havana the rolls averaged three hundred per day. The country districts also showed heavy increases. The progressive Cubans regret this sudden disposition of the Spaniards to preserve their nationality, because it is realized that it means increased danger of black domination at the polls. The revolutionary element, eligible to vote under the present regulations, is made up almost entirely of negroes. The votes of the Spaniards are needed to overcome this danger, but it has been found impossible to check the tide of registration.

For months it appeared as though a great majority of Spaniards would elect to remain Cubans. As the time drew to a close the sentiment of standing by the old colours grew stronger, and was not decreased by the deepening impression that the Cubans will get a chance to run their own Government. Many Spaniards feel that if this is really to be they prefer to have a consul to whom they can appeal, rather than trust themselves to their former enemies. This has caused the rush to the registry.

SOME PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Manila, 18th May.

There is an old man on a United States transport to-day sailing on the Pacific somewhere between here and Honolulu. He is going home to retire from the army in 1902. What reception he will meet at the hands of his countrymen after two years absence is somewhat difficult to foretell. No doubt there will be extravagant praise on the one hand and outrageous condemnation on the other. Public men are not handled gently in the United States. General Otis has not handled the public very gently and the public has a good memory and may be inclined to remove its gloves when greeting him. During the last two years this administration has been consistently, thoroughly and jealously sustained and supported by Washington; it has been the object of the severest, bitterest and most general attack by the powerful opposition.

The country is on the verge of what promises to be one of the greatest political battles in the history of the republic. The question comes to an issue during the closing months of the present year and on the result hangs the Republican party, for a time at least. The importance of the Philippines both politically and commercially is daily increasing until it has outclassed Cuba and Puerto Rico, and taken the lead as the chief attraction in the theatre of public questions.

THE RIVAL CANDIDATES.

Otis stands as the representative of the Philippines and he rises or falls with the party that maintained him. It was in a great sense a mutual support, a leaning of one against the other, and in this way they must remain. People say, and some jokingly, some seriously, that Otis as the chief figure and champion of his government will be a presidential candidate. Now that Dewey has come before the people with a string out for the presidency, no one knows where to expect the next move. General Miles, the commander of the army, has long nursed the political bee in his bonnet, and to-day many papers in different parts of the country are agitating his nomination. Bryan, Roosevelt and McKinley are putting up a lively and interesting little show of their own, and with Dewey, Miles and Otis on the programme the public should be thoroughly entertained and amused. This Otis talk is no doubt a little premature, but the word has commenced going

the rounds and there is no telling where it will end.

In the meantime, the object of discussion and speculation sits plugging away on his report, in his office which he had specially fitted out, on the transport *Meade*. He took along his clerks and stenographers, records and documents, and by the time the anchor grabs the mud of San Francisco Bay, he should be able to say "I wash my hands of the Philippines." There is no doubt that his return is eagerly waited for. The peace and quiet insured by the sea trip is to be rudely banished. Wait until his countrymen, his politicians, his friends, his enemies, his family (though he is not possessed of a political wife) get him—then we shall know what is to become of him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE REFORMERS IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 17th May.

Sir,—In last night's *China Mail* there appeared a letter signed WEE HOOD SIN. Do Kang Yu Wei and his fanatical followers mean it, or has a joke been perpetrated by the mercenary who wrote the letter? The writer has the audacity to sign himself "a Protestant." This is a nice way to whitewash Kang Yu Wei and his men, but any sensible man easily sees through the false veil.

It is well known that Kang Yu Wei and his men are dead against Christianity and Christians, as the movement in favour of Confucius and Confucianism in China, Japan, America and the Straits Settlements conclusively prove. Kwang has been trying to ape Mahomet, but has failed miserably. But Kang Yu Wei is such a man that, some day, to suit his own ends, he will declare himself a staunch supporter of Christianity! The man has no fixed policy, and resembles a piece of wood floating on the vast Ocean.

Further comment would be superfluous.

Kang Yu Wei has still a host of cranky admirers abroad, and these, poor souls, are influenced by the newspaper reports of his faithful "canine" pupils and followers. This man is taking advantage of the ignorance of the masses in China, and dares to juggle with the 400,000,000 of the Empire as if they were innocent babes.

The general impression of Europeans abroad is that there is only one Reform Movement in China, and that the leader is Kang Yu Wei. This is erroneous, as there are two parties, the "First Reform Party," organized and directed by able and enlightened Westernized Chinese, and the "Po Wong" (i.e. Protect the Emperor) Reform Party, organized and led by that hairbrained and quixotic fanatic Kang Yu Wei, and his pupils. The aims of these two parties are distinctly antagonistic, as the "First Reform Party" is Revolutionary, whereas the other is in favour of supporting the detested Manchus.

It is rumoured that Kang Yu Wei and his misguided followers, being jealous of the power and growing influence of "The First Reform Party," are now planning rebellion under the garb of loyal supporters of the Emperor Kuang Hsu! Such traitorous and cowardly plotting is despicable in the eyes of honourable men.

Thanking you for the insertion of this in your valuable paper.—Yours truly,

LIGHT.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA—A PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
17th May, 1900.

Sir,—I am sure you would not care to open your columns to anything like religious or missionary controversy, but, in the name of fair play, you will perhaps kindly permit me to take exception to an accusation against a certain body of missionaries, brought forward by one of your recent correspondents. In the letter of VERITAS, on the 14th instant, there occur the following words: "As regards the charge of political intrigue, the truth of this, alas! was only too clearly demonstrated to the world by

the Shanghai Press recently, on the part of Catholics." Now this is a rather grave accusation, as it stands, and justice would seem to require that grave accusations be not made lightly. Might not just a word have been added to specify the charge, or at least to indicate what paper, or what number of the paper, was referred to? Political intrigue is such a vague term, and when used without qualification it is naturally taken in all its extension. Is the charge then that Catholic missionaries have been plotting against the government, or does the "political intrigue" of which they are accused fall short of that extreme? If it be considered political intrigue to seek redress for grievances by recourse to the mandarins, and when necessary to the consuls, and in last resort to the legations, Catholics must certainly plead guilty. But whether that is a crime, or even unbecoming in missionaries, is another question.

Considering that your correspondent's letter was to be read by many who have not the advantage of having the run of Shanghai papers, it might seem a little unfair for him to make so grave a charge, in such general terms, and with so vague a reference to his authority. At least, the charge should not pass without a protest.

JUSTITIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Canton, May 20th, 1900.

Sir,—With reference to JUSTITIA's letter, by "political intrigue" I merely meant interference in law cases on behalf of converts, purely Chinese and involving no foreign religious or secular interest, as was complained of by the late Viceroy T'an of these provinces. No doubt the words were somewhat misleading, although such interference does tend to "political intrigue" when carried to excess, by setting up on "Imperium in imperio." If JUSTITIA will turn to the *Shanghai Celestial Empire* of February, 1899, he will read much edifying matter under this head, and if he will look up the same papers for May, of the same year, he will read from the pen of a Protestant Missionary: "In almost every town and village of China are to be found men who live by extortion, preying on the timid and ignorant; unscrupulous, cruel, and rapacious as wolves, they are only kept in restraint by fear of consequences. Once these creatures are delivered from fear of punishment, they give the reins to all that is devilish within them, and become a terror to honest men. To obtain such protection against the law, all that is necessary is to become a member of the Roman Catholic Church; then, when a man finds himself in danger of suffering for his sins, to represent the case as one of religious persecution, and involve the aid of the priest, who is only too ready to add to his own prestige by protecting his flock from the oppression of the wicked. In some of the cities through which I have passed, I found the officials so afraid of the priests and the power of France behind them, that they dare not give judgment against a Catholic convert however evident his guilt, lest they should get into trouble." Possibly all this is greatly exaggerated, and probably due to a great extent, as the writer subsequently remarks more to zeal than to ulterior motive; but still, there it is, and much more of a like kind, upon which JUSTITIA may enlighten himself by referring to the papers mentioned, if he thinks it worth the trouble.—Yours, etc.,

VERITAS.

THE HONGKONG WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—In May, 1896, the then Director of Public Works reported that the population of the City of Victoria and Hill District was increasing at the rate of 5,000 per annum, and that consequently the annual increase of water requiring to be stored for distribution would be 27 million gallons.

During the four years which have elapsed since the date of that report the total storage capacity of the reservoirs appears to have been increased by 93 million gallons, leaving 15 million gallons outstanding.

The works existing in 1896, with extensions then proposed, and since then carried out, were intended to provide in average years about 15 gallons of water a head a day to the population.

It may be remarked this is a small ration of water in a tropical city, as in temperate climates the provision of water in the large cities is as much as 30 gallons a head a day.

Since the raising of the overflow weir the Taitam reservoir can hold nearly 409 million gallons of water, the new reservoir above Wongneichong can hold nearly 34 millions, and Pokfolum reservoir nearly 68 millions, giving a total storage capacity in the three storage reservoirs of about 511 million gallons.

As the present population consumes about 3 million gallons a day the present total storage capacity of the reservoirs is equal to about 170 days supply when all reservoirs are full.

The total quantity of water reported to be in the storage reservoirs on the first of May this year was 49 million gallons, or about 17 days' supply for the population.

The rain which fell on the 13th and 14th May this year has probably replenished the reservoirs to a certain extent, but it has been said that although the City of Victoria had been on a reduced allowance of water during the preceding fortnight there was only 11 days supply of water in stock when the heavy rains began.

In 1896 the Director of Public Works advised the construction, in addition to the new reservoir since completed above Wongneichong, of four more, and one enlarged, reservoirs, with necessary adjuncts, to be completed within the succeeding seven years at a cost of \$540,000.

These four reservoirs and one enlargement would contain altogether 230 million gallons and raise the total storage capacity from 511 to 747 million gallons, or from 170 days' supply to 247 days' supply.

Surveys and designs were reported in 1896 to have been then already made for these works, but no financial provision appears to be made as yet for carrying them out, although the increase of population and consequent increase of consumption of water proceeds continuously.

This recent curtailment of the supply of water seems to show the advisability of providing sufficient reservoirs for impounding enough water every year during the rainy season between May and September to provide against an exceptionally dry season occurring during the succeeding eight months.

During the dry season of 90-91 the total yield from the Pokfolum and Taitam catchment areas, less the loss by evaporation from the surfaces of the reservoirs, is reported to have been only 85 million gallons, or about 29 days' supply; so that, in provision for a very possible recurrence of a similar season, it would be only prudent to provide for having at least 215 days' supply of water impounded in storage reservoirs at the end of August every year. This quantity, plus a yield during the dry season of 29 days' supply, should tide over any drought likely to occur.

From the published estimates of the Public Works Department, and allowing for the increase in cost of labour and materials since 1896, it would seem that the above result might be attained, inclusive of providing the necessary additional filtering area and conveyance mains, for about \$600,000, spread over five years, or a capital expenditure of about \$120,000 a year. Owing to the increase in the cost of works in colony since 1896 the cost of carrying out the full programme recommended by Mr. Cooper would probably amount to about \$750,000 at the present prices.

It should be added that the present Director of Public Works, in his published report for 1897, endorsed the opinions of his predecessor so far as to recommend the construction of three of the new reservoirs proposed by Mr. Cooper. But apparently nothing further has been done, while there is evidently a good deal of indifference to a subject which is really of serious practical importance to the colony, and worthy of careful attention.—I am, sir, yours &c.

A. J. HAMILTON-SMYTHE.

Prince's Buildings,

Hongkong, 21st May, 1900.

The *Kobe Herald* says: It is reported that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is now considering the establishment of a branch at Seoul, and was investigating last month the commercial relations of the Korean capital with Chemulpo through two delegates sent for the express purpose.

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The second ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, was held on the 23rd inst at noon at the Company's Office, No. 2, Connaught Road. Hon. C. P. Chater presided. The following gentlemen were also present: Messrs. P. Sachse and J. A. Mackay (Directors), Edward Osborne (Secretary), Victor Deacon (Solicitor), Wong Kam-fuk, Geo. Murray Bain, G. L. C. Berger, F. A. Brown, H. H. Brown, J. Brownhill, A. C. J. Campbell, Dr. J. Bell, T. Yule, G. C. Moxon, W. J. Gresson, A. Haupt, Paul Jordan, L. L. Lopes, A. Mackenzie, E. J. Main, Dorabjee Nowrojee, R. S. Philpott, W. H. Potts, G. J. B. Sayer, C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, R. C. Wilcox, C. C. Wilson, G. H. Potts, C. W. Dickson, W. A. C. Cruickshank, G. K. Wright, T. Skinner, S. Wilson, D. M. Moses and J. A. Chinoy.

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts, with your permission, I will take as read. The gross earnings of the boats were \$6,851 better than last year, but in consequence of the increased cost of running the new *Morning Star* compared with the old boat of the same name, and also on account of the advanced rate for hired launches which are needed to take the place of the company's boats whilst the latter are under repair, and increased expenditures on wages, the nett earnings were only some \$1,700 better. The company has, I regret to say, suffered a loss of \$4,652 in making good the defalcations of one of the clerks who had abstracted blank forms of share certificates and by a clever subterfuge secured the Secretary's and Directors' signatures to them, then obtained access to the Company's seal, stamped the Certificates, made out a false transfer deed and sold the scrip in the market. Your Directors took legal advice as to the Company's liability and in consequence of that advice they paid the market value of the shares for the spurious certificates. The clerk in question, an Eurasian, had been working under the Secretary for nearly 10 years and, as it was part of his duty to attend to the share register and stamp scrip, he had frequent opportunities of gaining access to the seal. The loss is a very unfortunate one and steps have been taken to make a recurrence of it practically impossible. In view of this exceptional loss we have not suggested writing anything off the boats or from goodwill because we propose, with your permission, to make ample provision in respect of these two items out of the premium on the new issue of capital which I will refer to at the special meeting later on. With regard to the two new double-enders, which are being built by the Dock Company, one of them is promised in three months time and the other will, we think, be ready shortly afterwards. When these boats are delivered the service will be run almost entirely with double-enders, which no doubt will be appreciated by the public and especially Kowloon residents. These boats however will cost a great deal more to run than the old ones, and we shall therefore need all the money we can earn. For this reason it is proposed to erect turnstiles for 1st and 2nd class passengers and so afford a better means of preventing persons travelling, as they sometimes do, without payment and provide a more reliable check on our collectors. We have endeavoured to arrive at the same result in other ways, but the Company receives, in this matter, so little support (and in fact sometimes opposition) from the public that we are reluctantly compelled to adopt the turnstile as is done in other parts of the world. This will perhaps not be agreeable to some, but as it is impossible to run these expensive double-enders at a profit, whilst leakage and other irregularities continue, they will no doubt come to see that the trifling inconvenience caused by the turnstile is to their own advantage in that it enables the Company to provide a better service than would otherwise be possible. There is, however, no intention of abolishing monthly tickets. With regard to the Ferry Company's position in relation to the Wharf Company and concerning which comments have lately been made, it may be as well to state that the Ferry Company, when it was formed, took over under agreement from Mr. D. Nowrojee, the late proprietor of the ferry launches, that gentleman's good-will and obligations.

One of the obligations was to carry the Wharf Company's employees, excluding coolies, free of charge. But the Wharf Company have always paid full fare for every coolie carried in the ferry boats, including those conveyed under free passes attached to delivery orders, and I may remark, gentlemen, that these contributions of the Wharf Company constitute no inconsiderable proportion of your revenue. The Wharf Company gives to the Ferry Company the exclusive use of its wharf at Kowloon, it keeps the wharf and the matshed over it in repair, and pays for the lighting of it. The Wharf Company also provided the guide piles which were recently driven alongside the Kowloon jetty for the convenience of the ferry boats. It is well that shareholders should realise that the Wharf Company, in its own interests, is bound to maintain a good ferry service to the wharves and that the traffic to and from the wharves, quite apart from Kowloon residents, is the backbone of the Ferry Company, and without it a service such as we provide would be a financial failure. (Applause.) Gentlemen, before I sit down and ask if any gentleman has any questions to ask, I would call your attention to the fact that some questions have been sent in by one of the shareholders. I will read the questions and also our answers:—

Q.—Were the forged scrips signed by either the Directors or the Secretary?

A.—Four scrips bore the Directors' and Secretary's signatures and one scrip bore the Directors' signature and the Secretary's forged signature.

Q.—Who is to blame for this loss to the Company?

A.—The Directors consider that no one is to blame as reasonable care and precautions were taken to safeguard the seal, and the loss was brought about by deception and fraud.

Q.—What means are taken to prevent further loss?

A.—European does the work formerly done by the Eurasian clerk. And the Secretary cancels the old scrip himself so as to prevent its being produced to him a second time. There are two keys to the Seal, one kept by the Secretary and the other by the European clerk, and the seal cannot be unlocked without both are present.

Q.—What are the gross earnings of the Company during the present year?

A.—\$72,164.58.

Q.—What is the number of persons allowed to travel free on the launches?

A.—Twenty persons, besides the Wharf Co's employees.

Q.—What amount has been lost to the Company by the issue of free passes in connection with delivery orders of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.?

A.—No amount has been lost, as the free passes have all been paid in full by the Wharf Company.

I may mention, gentlemen, that these questions came in long after the Chairman's speech was got ready and passed by the Board of Directors. I shall be very pleased to answer any other questions any gentleman may be pleased to ask.

Major BROWN—May I ask, Mr. Chairman, if in Mr. Nowrojee's time the money paid for the use of the Godown pier was \$300 a month, and if it was increased afterwards to ten per cent of the "Star" Ferry Company's takings.

CHAIRMAN—It was so.

Major BROWN—As the agreement has been charged—as the Wharf Company's charges have been changed since the Company was taken over from Mr. Nowrojee,—might I suggest the directors might consider the matter of the increased amount the Wharf and Godown Company is receiving for the use of its pier and might cancel the passes of the employees of the Godown Company.

The CHAIRMAN—In reply, I may state, gentlemen, that this concern was taken over from Mr. Nowrojee by the "Star" Ferry Company, and at that time there was an agreement between Mr. Nowrojee and the Wharf Company. Part of that agreement was that the Wharf Co's employees should go over free. When this new company was formed and before the shares were issued, a contract was made by the Wharf Company with the promoters of the "Star" Ferry Company to the same effect, viz., that the employees of the Wharf Company should go over free and the percentage to be paid to the Wharf Company by the "Star" Ferry Company was

fixed under a contract which is in possession of the Secretary at this moment. I may mention that if the arrangements had gone on with Mr. Norwrojee, the Secretary just tells me the charges would have been practically the same as they are at present.

Mr. MACKENZIE—With reference to the turnstiles, Mr. Chairman, is it the intention that monthly ticket-holders should pass through the turnstiles you have spoken of?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, but the directors will do all they can to have as little trouble with the turnstiles as possible. In the beginning it may be necessary that they should pass through the turnstiles. We have tried to avoid the turnstiles for first-class passengers, but to stop these leakages and put a check on our collectors they must be resorted to.

Mr. SAYER—When the turnstiles are erected will there be a reduction in the number of collectors on the boats?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

Major BROWN—May I ask the directors if it is not possible in connection with the forgeries to carry out the system of English companies with regard to transfer. That is, when notice has been received at the office of the Company that some shares are to be transferred, notice is sent to the seller that on such and such a date shares will be transferred provided no objection is raised by him. That is done in a good many places.

The CHAIRMAN—It would be almost impossible in Hongkong. Shares are rarely transferred here direct from a seller who holds the shares in his own name to the intending purchaser. As probably many gentlemen in the room will know there are blank transfers and scrips going about the colony for five or six years, and the man who signed the transfer if called upon would reply he knew absolutely nothing about it; he had parted with his interest four or five years ago.

Major BROWN—Would it prevent any possibility of forgeries in future, because I take it that in this case the Secretary did not check the register with the forged scrip?

The CHAIRMAN—You are mistaken. Every precaution that could be taken was taken to see that the scrip was right, but where forgery comes in it is a very difficult matter to know when you are safe. This man was in the employ of the Wharf Company for ten years. The directors went into the matter and thoroughly satisfied themselves that every precaution had been taken.

Mr. MACKENZIE—Has the man been prosecuted?

The CHAIRMAN—We cannot get him, unfortunately. We offered rewards and informed the Police, but he could not be traced.

No more questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WILCOX—I have much pleasure in seconding, I think that all will agree that it is a very wise policy to build up a reserve in a Company like this, especially where it is intended to underwrite the fleet on account of the high premiums charged. I think on the whole the report is most satisfactory. Of course we have been the victims of a fraud, and the amount that would have been set aside for depreciation has had to be devoted to another purpose. In future the depreciation will have to be provided for and the underwriting too. That will be done, I presume, by annually increasing the reserve fund. Too much importance cannot be attached to that, and I think we ought to go in for a steady addition every year to the reserve fund until it attains a substantial figure. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. YULE—Before putting the resolution, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that from the remarks you made it seems illogical to state that when the forgeries were committed proper precautions were taken, as you say further precautions have since been taken. I understand that if these proper precautions are taken now that they were not taken before.

The CHAIRMAN—It is only when a fraud is committed that you begin to realise how it could have been committed. Knowing how it was committed we are adopting extra precautions to avoid its recurrence.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

Mr. MOXON proposed that the appointment of Mr. J. A. Mackay to the Directorate be confirmed, and that Mr. P. Sachse be re-elected a Director.

Mr. JORDAN seconded.

Carried.

Mr. MURRAY Bain proposed that Mr. W. H. Potts be re-elected auditor.

Mr. WONG KAM FOOK seconded.

Carried.

This concluded the business.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Company was afterwards held.

The CHAIRMAN said—The proposed increase of capital is required to pay for the new double-enders, which will absorb \$50,000, also for other new boats which will, it is anticipated, be required as traffic increases and for opening up new lines where there may be opportunities for profitable employment. We had intended to issue this new capital by instalments in the form of fully paid up scrip from time to time as money was needed, rather than issue the whole of it at once in the form of partially paid up scrip. This latter method involves not only additional expense in advertising, legal, and other charges, but involves also disadvantages and inconveniences which are inseparable from a partially paid up scrip and which therefore cause a partially paid up scrip to be unpopular with Shareholders. For this reason the resolutions were worded in the manner they are. There was never the slightest desire or intention on the part of the Directors to issue the capital to persons other than Shareholders, and the resolutions were put into their present form simply to allow the Board to effect, in an economical manner, what appeared to them most beneficial to those persons who are registered as shareholders on the 9th June, at a premium of \$5 per share i.e. \$16 per share, of which \$4 will be payable on 16th June and the balance when needed, and these new shares of \$2.50 paid up will participate in the current year's dividend *pro rata*. The premium of \$6 may perhaps be considered by some too high. The Board however thinks that the permanent interests of the Company should have first consideration and being of opinion that the new capital can be obtained at \$6 premium, and even at a higher figure, they feel it their duty to recommend the issue at that price. Having thus publicly stated our intentions I trust that you will see fit to pass the resolutions in their present form. To reject or alter them will entail delay and expense which a small Company like this can ill afford to bear, and I trust I have made it quite clear to you that the Board were actuated in this matter by a genuine desire to do what they considered best for the welfare of the Company. (Applause.) We have no doubt the whole sum asked for will be subscribed, in which case the \$60,000 premium will be transferred to the reserve fund. I now beg to propose the following resolutions:—

- 1.—That the Capital of the Company be increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000 by the creation of 10,000 New Shares of \$10 each.
- 2.—That the New Shares be issued at such time or times and at such premium as the Directors may determine.
- 3.—That the New Shares be Allotted to such persons and upon such terms and conditions as the Directors may determine.

Mr. W. J. GRESSON seconded.

Mr. SAYER—Would it not be better to take these separately. I approve of the first resolution.

Major BROWN—May I ask if they are to be taken separately—the first one I heartily approve of—that seems to be the wish of the other shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN—It can be done as proposed. It has been proposed by me that they be taken *en bloc* and second by Mr. Gresson. I should like to get the feeling of the Shareholders.

Captain BERGER—Surely the increased capital is one thing and the allotment another.

Mr. SHARP proposed that the resolutions be taken *en bloc*.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded.

Major BROWN proposed as an amendment that they be taken in detail.

Dr. BELL seconded.

The resolution that they be taken *en bloc* was carried; and the resolutions were carried by a large majority.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business of this meeting. There is another meeting.

ALTERATION OF ARTICLES.

Another extraordinary meeting was subsequently held.

The CHAIRMAN said—The effect of the resolution which I am about to propose will be to fix the quorum at general meetings at five. Under our Articles the quorum varies according to the number of Shareholders, at present being 20, and owing to the difficulty experienced in getting the requisite number of persons to attend meetings we think it well to alter the Articles in the manner suggested.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed:—

That the regulations contained in Table A in so far as they apply to this Company be altered as follows:—

That the following clause be substituted for Clause 37 of Table A: "The quorum for all the purposes of a General Meeting shall be not less than five members present in person or by proxy. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless the quorum requisite be present at the commencement of the business."

Mr. C. W. DICKSON seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business. I thank you for your attendance.

The following was the report presented to shareholders at the above meeting.

The directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1900.

ACCOUNTS.

The nett earnings of the boats after paying all working expenses were \$25,845.55 against \$24,122.18 last year, being an increase of \$1,723.37.

The amount at credit of profit and loss account after paying for repairs and making good the loss on forged scrip referred to below was \$14,619.50, which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditor's fees	\$ 1,000.00
Dividend of \$1.05 cents per share being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum	10,500.00
Write off turnstiles	224.55
Transfer to reserve fund	2,000.00
Carry forward to new account	894.95

\$14,619.50

The directors much regret having had to pay a sum of \$4,652.50 for the purchase of share certificates to the extent of 250 shares which had been fraudulently issued by one of the clerks and for which they were advised the Company was liable.

BOATS.

Two new double-enders similar to the *Morning Star* were contracted for in August last and the first of them is expected to be delivered next August. The question of insuring the boats has received full consideration and in view of the heavy premium required and their immunity from serious accident in the past the Board are of opinion the risk should be borne by the Company itself and provided against by additions to the reserve fund.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. S. Whealler having resigned, his place has been taken by Mr. J. A. Mackay. Mr. P. Sachse retires in accordance with the Articles of Association but being eligible offers himself for re-election, and the appointments of these gentlemen require confirmation.

AUDITOR.

Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented and the directors recommend him for re-election.

C. P. CHATER, Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 30TH APRIL, 1900.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
To capital.—		
10,000 shares at \$10 each fully paid up	100,000.00	
To reserve fund as per last account	2,000.00	
To transferred from profit and loss account	2,000.00	
		4,000.00
To unclaimed dividend		3.75
To accounts payable		16,283.70
To balance of profit and loss account		894.95
		\$121,182.40

ASSETS.		\$	c.
By 4 ferry boats as per last account	\$73,455.00		
By payments on account of two new double-enders	16,750.00		
		90,205.00	
By goodwill as per last account		10,000.00	
By accounts receivable		512.47	
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		19,361.18	
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank No. 2 account		3.75	
By cost of 8 turnstiles	\$1,224.55		
By less written off	224.55		
		1,000.00	
By cash in hand		100.00	
		\$121,182.40	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To repairs and alterations to boats	7,422.03		
To loss on forged share certificates	4,652.50		
To balance appropriated as follows—			
Directors' and auditor's fees	\$1,000.00		
Dividend of 12 per cent. on \$75,000 for 12 months	9,000.00		
Dividend of 6 per cent. on \$25,000 for 6 months	1,500.00		
Written off turnstiles	224.55		
Transferred to reserve fund	2,000.00		
Carried forward to new account	894.95		
		14,619.50	
		\$26,694.03	
		\$	c.
By balance from last account	551.81		
By nett earnings of boats	25,845.55		
By interest	120.72		
By scrip fees	176.00		
		\$26,694.03	
RESERVE FUND.		\$	c.
To balance	4,000.00		
		\$4,000.00	
		\$	c.
By balance from last account	2,000.00		
By transfer from profit and loss account	2,000.00		
		\$4,000.00	
EDWARD OSBORNE, Secretary.			

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LD.

The following is the Report for the month ending 14th April, 1900:—

To the Directors of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.

Gentlemen,—During the past four weeks the following work has been done in your mine.

Caledonian Main Shaft.—The Contractors have advanced the bottom level North a further distance of 54 feet making a total of 90 feet from the Crosscut. After driving about 6 feet, the reef mentioned in my last report cut out, and we have since been driving the blank ground, but now we have a small leader in the face, from which I have taken samples, but found that it contains no gold. I started to stope over this level, but the reef pinched very small, and only showed a few colors of very fine gold when prospected. Stopping has since been discontinued, and a trial crushing from the North level and stope cleaned up, the result being very unsatisfactory, only getting a little Amalgam from 34 tons crushed, which has been put in with the trial crushing from the Caledonian Underlie Shaft. The Contractors have advanced the South level a further distance of 52 feet, making a total of 81 feet from the Crosscut; this level has been chiefly in blank ground, with the exception of a few small bunches of poor stone in the formation.

Caledonian Underlie Shaft.—I regret to state that after 33 tons were taken out of the Stopes at this Shaft, the Chute of stone mentioned in my previous report almost cut out and lost its gold. I am of the opinion that the trial crushing of 33 tons for a yield of 7 oz. 19 dwts. retorted gold, came from the first 12 or 15 tons broken. Stopping has been stopped. I am surprised at the result, as I felt confident, when we started to crush, the stone would yield from 5 dwts. to 7 dwts. to the ton. Although some of the samples show up fairly well in the prospecting dish, the gold must be very fine and has no body.

Tunnel on Great Eastern Lease.—The tunnel has been advanced a further 62 feet, making a total of 85 feet from starting point. Nothing payable has been discovered.

Battery.—20 tons of stone from Woods Flat Mine has been treated at the Company's battery for a yield of 12 ounces retorted gold.

33 tons of a trial crushing from the Caledonian Underlie Shaft has been treated for a yield of 7 oz. 10 dwts. retorted gold, inclusive of a little Amalgam from a trial crushing of 34 tons taken from the North level, and Stopes at the Caledonian Shaft (Main).

General Remarks.—After conferring with W. Bast we decided to discontinue work at the Great Eastern tunnel, Caledonian Main and Underlie Shafts, and start operations near the Southern end of the Company's boundary, where J. Long is getting good stone 23 feet from boundary line, which appears to trend North. We are down 30 feet with a small prospecting shaft and should cut the good stone after another 30 feet of sinking, which will take us about four weeks to complete.

J. Long is putting through another crushing of 20 tons at the Company's Battery, and judging from the copper plates the stone will yield over 1 oz. to the ton.

I feel very sanguine that we will get a patch of Gold in our new prospecting shaft.

I remain, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. WATERS.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"C" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The May picnic of the "C" Machine Gun Company was the best attended of any yet, there being present about 30 members and prospective members. A maxim gun was taken, originally for the purpose of a gun lecture on board the launch, as it was expected to be too hot to land early, but through the kindness of the Commandant the gun was furnished with two boxes of ammunition and two long targets. On landing tiffin was first disposed of, and then each member took his turn at the maxim, firing about 30 rounds, which practice was made the most of under the able guidance of Sergeant-Instructor Milligan, who also contrived that jams and other stoppages should occur so that the member might gain practical mastery of the gun.

A Spoon competition was also held at 500 yards, there being no time for two ranges; the following being the best scores, military marking:—

	Score.	H'cap.	Total.
* Sergeant Smillie	24	4	28
* Corporal Sherwin	20	5	25
Gunner J. Lee	17	7	24
Gunner Logan	16	7	23
Gunner Michael	16	7	23
Gunner Berkley	14	7	21

The outing concluded with a bathe from the launch.

* Winners of Spoons.

HONGKONG.

During the week ending 20th May, the City Hall Library was visited by 392 non-Chinese and 213 Chinese; the Museum by 182 non-Chinese and 1,999 Chinese.

On the 18th inst. Mr. S. A. Bux, fourth Clerk and Assistant Hindustani Interpreter, was presented with a souvenir, a handsome gold ring, by the Magistracy Staff upon his promotion to the Police Office. The presentation was made by Mr. William Ng Kwai Shang.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that at a special meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 17th instant it was resolved to declare the whole city of Victoria infected with plague. Previously on the 10th instant the villages of Yaumati and Hunghom, Kowloon, had been declared infected.

At the Supreme Court on the 19th inst. the Chief Justice interrupted the proceedings by stating that the jury would be pleased to hear that a telegram had been received to the effect that the siege of Mafeking had been abandoned and that the British relief force had entered the town.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. several persons were charged with keeping brothels in certain prohibited streets at West Point. Mr. Francis, Q.C., appeared for the defendants and raised various objections, which were, however, overruled. Ultimately Mr. Gompertz made an order giving the defendants until August 1st in which to vacate their premises.

Mr. J. R. Crook has been appointed Acting Sanitary Surveyor during the absence on leave of Mr. R. F. Drury.

Messrs. H. F. Carmichael and E. O. Murphy have been appointed surveyors of boilers of unlicensed steamships under 60 tons burden.

At the Magistracy on the 19th inst. Black, the steward on board the S. S. *Royalist*, was charged before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy with the wilful murder of Mr. Reid, the second officer. Evidence of arrest was given by Inspector Gauld, who produced a Winchester rifle, which he said he found in the Captain's room with nine cartridges in the magazine and an exploded cartridge in the breech. The case was adjourned until to-day.

A couple of fishing junks moored in Kowloon Bay had an unpleasant experience on Friday evening, the 18th inst. They were visited by between 12 and 14 men armed with revolvers who fired a number of shots, wounding one of the fishermen. They then ransacked the junks, and having collected a quantity of clothing and jewelry to the value of \$40 rowed off in a small boat towards Kowloon City. Eight men were subsequently arrested in a house at Tokowan with some of the stolen property in their possession.

When the jury was being selected at the Criminal Sessions on the 18th inst. Mr. B. C. M. Johnson's name was the first called out. He did not respond and his Lordship directed that he should be summoned for two o'clock. Mr. Johnson appeared in the afternoon, and his Lordship, addressing him, said: You did not answer your name this morning when it was called—Mr. Johnson: I had forgotten all about it. I mislaid my jury summons and it escaped my memory.—His Lordship: Do you think people ought to forget these important engagements?—Mr. Johnson: No; I do not think so.—His Lordship: Well, I am afraid I must make your memory a little more ready than it is by asking you to pay a fine of \$5.

At the Supreme Court on the 21st instant Sergeant Lacock was called forward and the Chief Justice addressed him as follows:—I omitted to do on Saturday what I intended to do, and that was to express the sense of the Court with regard to the diligence and promptitude displayed by you in the detection of the robbery committed at Shaukiwan. I think, in the circumstance of the case, a good many people having captured a few of the robbers would have been content and gone quietly back to the station, but you were not weary in well doing and went out and captured a third. I think your conduct is very much to be commended as showing great zeal and energy and discretion. Mr. Mackie, will you kindly bring the conduct of Sergeant Lacock specially to the notice of the Superintendent.

The explanation of the delay of the *Whiting* and *Fame*, which we reported in our issue of the 18th, was furnished by a court martial on H.M.S. *Terrible* the same morning, when Lieutenant-Commander Edward Kelly, of the *Whiting*, was charged with refusing duty. Captain Percy Scott, C.B., was the President, and the other officers forming the Court were:—Captain J. H. T. Burke, H.M.S. *Orlando*; Commander C. W. Winton-Ingram, H.M.S. *Daphne*; Commander Blackburne, of the Naval Yard; and Commander Charlton, H.M.S. *Orlando*. The Court found Commander Kelly guilty of refusing duty and ordered him to be dismissed from his ship and lose five years' seniority. It appears that Commander Kelly had applied for leave to go home and had obtained permission, which was afterwards withdrawn.

At about eight a.m., on the 19th inst. the attention of the police was directed to a large crowd assembled in front of a shop in Queen's road East. On going to the front they found that a Chinaman had taken refuge in the shop from another Chinaman, who was brandishing a formidable-looking weapon something like a chopper and threatening what he would do for the man of whom he was in pursuit. This man was taken into custody and brought up at the Magistracy for disorderly behaviour, and fined \$10. His story was that he was engaged in his occupation as a carpenter when another carpenter came up to him and asked him to join a secret society and to pay him a fee. This the defendant refused to do, saying that he had no money. High words ensued, and getting tired of his importunity he chased him away with a chopper.

59 cases of plague and 53 deaths occurred on the five days preceding noon of the 25th inst. The cases for the week ending 19th inst. were 96 and the deaths 86. Only two other cases of disease are reported, one of enteric fever, and one of small-pox, which ended fatally.

At the Magistracy on the 18th inst. a Chinese firm of arms-dealers carrying on business in Praya Central were charged with removing arms without a special license. Mr. Looker appeared for the defendants. There being no suspicious circumstances connected with the case, a fine of \$5 only was imposed.

On the 17th inst. a Japanese seafaring man went up to the American Consulate in Glencaley, and because he could not have all his own way began to make a disturbance. Consul-General Wildman asked him to be quiet, cautioning him as to the consequences if he refused, and as he took no notice the man was given into custody. He was brought before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 18th inst. Mr. Wildman said he did not wish to press the case, and in consequence the man was discharged with a caution.

The Colonial Secretary of Macao, Senhor Alfredo Pinto Lello, arrived here, with his wife, last Saturday by the French Mail steamer *Indus*. Senha Lello is going to assume the administration of the colony, pending the arrival of the new Governor, and he takes his oath to-day as Acting Governor of Macao. The Portuguese Government is considered to have done a very wise thing in appointing Senhor Lello as Colonial Secretary, as it has proved that, during his past term of office, his duties have been performed with great assiduity and correctness, whereas during the Governorship of Senhor Galhardo, the then Colonial Secretary, Senhor Bandeira Lima, was recalled home and dismissed from the service. Senhor Lello is much congratulated on his re-appointment as Colonial Secretary. He left for Macao by the *Heungshan*, a large number of the Portuguese community seeing him off.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. four Chinamen were committed to take their trials at the criminal sessions for being concerned in two armed robberies at Ma Tau Wan, Kowloon, on the 7th inst., the robbers first visiting No. 129, which is occupied by a single woman named Chan Hi Tan, and then going across to No. 35, where Li Cheung, the mother of the other woman, lives. The daughter's story was to the effect that at about eleven o'clock on the evening in question she was asleep in the cockpit of her house when she was awakened by seeing a light. She then saw ten men enter the house, four of them carrying torches made of paper. She came down from the cockpit and called out "Thieves." One of the men had a sword in his hand and another a revolver. One of the men put his arms round her while another took off her silver bangles. This man had a knife in his hand. She called out "Thieves" three times, when one of the men put something in her mouth and covered her mouth with his hand. The men then broke open her boxes, and ultimately went away with some clothing, etc., also taking her servant girl with them. There were in the house this girl, another and herself. She recognised the third defendant.—In the other case Li Cheung said that shortly after 11 o'clock on the evening in question she was asleep in her room on the ground floor at 35, Ma Tan Wan, when she was awakened by cries of "Save life" from her daughter who lived opposite at 129. She then heard a noise as if her door was being pushed. Her daughter-in-law called out to her to open the door, and she did so, asking what was the matter. Then the third defendant came forward, seized her by the hair, and struck her with the blunt edge of a knife on the back of her neck, asking her, "Which do you prefer, your money or your life?" Other men pushed into the house and ransacked it, subsequently carrying away the contents of her boxes. After leaving the house the robbers fastened the door from the outside. The complainant forced the door open, and going to No. 30 called a *foki*, who went with her to Kowloon City, where her husband was working as cook. Her husband went with her to Kowloon City Police Station and made a report.—The defendants were subsequently arrested by Sergeant Cameron and an Indian constable.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

"Dinner and Souvenir Balance" \$2.57
The Mutual Store 5.00

Notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of the police to put down gambling among the Chinese there is not the least doubt that the vice is as prevalent in the colony now as it was some years ago. A house raided one week may be used for a similar purpose the next. The house 244, Hollywood-road, where the police captured 19 men who were gambling, had been twice raided before and heavy fines imposed. On the first occasion a man who was endeavouring to escape from the police was killed by falling down the smoke-hole.

In a recent number of *The Times* we were pleased to notice amongst the names of those who had passed the examination for Associate Members of the Institution of Civil Engineers that of Mr. Frederick Southey, who was educated at the Diocesan School and was the fortunate winner of the Government Scholarship in 1890. At present he is Resident Engineer in the construction of waterworks at Milford, Surrey. Mr. Southey's father was for several years Superintendent of Lighthouses from Fochow to Hongkong.

On Saturday night Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, Lance-Sergeant Terret, Sergeant Sullivan, and some Chinese lukongs, made a big haul of gamblers at 244, Hollywood-road. They found a large number of men engaged in playing "pai kau," and succeeded in arresting 19 of them. The men were brought up at the Magistracy yesterday. The first defendant was fined \$50, or two months; the second \$30, or seven weeks; the fourth \$20, or six weeks; the third and fifth \$5, or 14 days, and the rest \$3 each.

At the general desire the Portuguese amateurs repeated their performance at the Club Lusitano on Sunday evening, in aid of the Indian Famine Fund. There was again a crowded house. The two pieces were very well acted and showed a decided improvement, the amateurs going through their parts with much greater confidence. By kind permission of Captain Burke and the officers, the band of H.M.S. *Orlando* was present and played an excellent programme during the intervals under the guidance of the bandmaster, Mr. Vassallo.

At the Harbour Office on the 23rd, before Mr. Basil Taylor, George Osmond, carpenter of the s.s. *Japan*, was charged by Captain Wright, the master, with disobeying his lawful commands on board the said ship on the high seas on the 18th and 19th inst.—Captain Wright said that on the 18th May, at 7 a.m. he sent for the defendant and told him to go to work, whereupon the defendant went forward and went to bed, and refused to turn out. He also refused work the following day.—The Chief Officer (Mr. Le Mair) corroborated.—The defendant, who is getting on in years, admitted the offence, but added that he had been driven to drink by the bad treatment he received on board.—He was fined 10 days' pay.

The fête arranged to take place on the Cricket Ground in connection with the reception of H.M.S. *Terrible*, which had been postponed from the previous Tuesday on account of the weather, came off on the 19th inst. The weather was somewhat unsettled during the day, and it frequently looked as if there would have to be a further postponement. Fortunately the evening turned out fine, a pleasant breeze blowing and adding much to the enjoyment of the proceedings. The ground had been suitably prepared for the occasion. Chinese lanterns artistically arranged bordered three sides of the ground, and the effectiveness of the illuminations was enhanced by numerous fairy lamps placed in the trees. Over the pavilion "H. M. S. *Terrible*" was outlined by fairy lamps, the device, however, not being very successful on account of the lights being continually blown out. There were a couple of bandstands, one being occupied by the band of the Hongkong Regiment and the other by the band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. A refreshment tent for tea had been provided, whilst stronger liquors could be obtained in the Pavilion. Here cheers were raised every now and then for Baden-Powell, Maieking, or the *Terrible*. There was a good attendance, and altogether the fête was a success.

The *Gazette* notifies the receipt of information from the Naval Authorities of the discontinuance from the 23rd inst. of the Typhoon Signals usually shown from H.M.S. *Tamar*, owing to her going into dock.

At the Magistracy on the 19th inst. Mr. Gompertz fined Captain Lunt of the s.s. *Fushun*, \$10 for neglecting to deliver the mails from Canton until three hours after the ship's arrival in the colony. The Acting Postmaster (Mr. E. C. Lewis) said Captain Lunt had three bags of mails on board. They should have been delivered immediately, at latest on the 7th at 7 o'clock in the morning, but they were not delivered till three hours afterwards. He did not say it was altogether the fault of the master, but such occurrences as these caused a good deal of inconvenience.—Mr. O. D. Thomson, who appeared for the defence, said that the *Fushun* very rarely brought the mails from Canton to Hongkong. He believed this was the only occasion on which she had done so. She took the mails from Canton to Shanghai. The ship arrived on the Sunday night, and the mails should have been delivered next morning. They would have been delivered had the Captain been on board, but he left it to the second officer to do, and it was an oversight on the part of that officer that the bags were not delivered in time. He forgot, in fact, that he had the Hongkong mails on board.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Tokyo correspondent of *The Nagasaki Press* announces that on the 10th inst. there was to appear in Tokyo a weekly paper entitled the *Fujo Shimbun* (woman's paper) under the auspices of well-known society men and women. The prospectus just issued says that the paper will be devoted to the promotion of interests affecting the fair sex in Japan and will also conduct warfare against social abuses, to which no quarter will be given. Editor, reporters, and other members of the staff will consist of women.

The Nanking correspondent of *The North China Daily News* reports the return to his duties there of the old Viceroy Liu Kun-yi, who had surrendered his official seals but has now taken them back. He also notes that some Japanese have established themselves near the Drum Tower, Nanking, and have opened a school for the study of languages. When the school is in full running order some two hundred Japanese are expected to be in attendance. They are to study Chinese, while Chinese students are to receive instruction in other branches.

We have received a pamphlet entitled *Osaka as a Free Trade Port: also as the National Capital of Japan*, by Mr. Nakahashi Tokugoro, who warmly advocates these schemes. The author has no difficulty in demonstrating the importance which its position gives Osaka; and he claims that there is no more practicable scheme for the establishment of Japanese supremacy in the Pacific than the making Osaka a free-trade port. He goes carefully into the positions of the capitals of the principal countries throughout the world, and confidently asserts that ten years hence the project will be seriously discussed, in ten years more carried into practice. The author is very enthusiastic, but he marshals his facts with skill.

A *Rangoon Gazette* correspondent with the Burmese Boundary Commission, says that the net result of the conferences between the British and Chinese commissioners, "in spite of concessions offered by us, is that the Chinese stick to their idea of the treaty line which is geographically ridiculous, cutting natural features here, there and everywhere, and politically objectionable, as it divides the Wa country in two; and we adhere to the line indicated by the treaty, the country passed through by this line having been more or less completely mapped during the tour. The ideas of the two Commissioners will be submitted to their respective Governments, and it may reasonably be hoped that our line will be accepted as it stands." The correspondent continues:—"The British Commissioner tried to persuade General Liu to accompany him to the spot where the boundary first touches the Nam Hka river and jointly erect a cairn; this he refused to do. Mr. Scott is, therefore, going to set one up independently; when this has been done we shall be able to start homewards."

The *Valkyrien*, with Prince Waldemar of Denmark on board, arrived at Colombo on the 2nd inst., from Batavia on her way home.

To the misery caused by famine and want of water in Central India is now added the cholera, which has broken out in severe epidemic from in Ujjain, Neemuch, Dhar, and elsewhere, and is spreading.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai telegraphed yesterday to Acting Commissioner E. V. Brennan that the ports of Macao, Kobe and Osaka are declared infected.

A Seoul telegram of the 9th inst. to the *Jiji* states that the American demand for the concession of the Keishu and Wijn gold mines has been successful. The Korean Foreign Minister protests against the concession, but the Emperor has given his sanction and it is understood that the mines will become American property.

The *Times of India* reports that the Chinese Commissioners have some difficulty in understanding the references to latitudes and longitudes, in connection with the Burmah-Chinese Boundary Commission and also to water-sheds in the agreement concluded between the two Governments. The Commission has marched over the territory in dispute.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 11th May.—Silk.—Tsatlées and Re-reels.—No settlements are reported. Although prices of Re-reels are about \$40 per picul lower than a fortnight ago they are about \$60 per picul too high compared with the prices of filatures. Filatures.—Lyons cables reporting a better feeling induced buyers generally to secure the greatest quantity of refusals that could be had. Purchases amounted to about 1,500 bales during the first 5 days of the fortnight and prices stiffened quickly. The higher prices asked by the dealers seem, however to have checked the movement, and our market is again very dull and prices weak and irregular. The first crop is estimated at 3/1,000 bales and the silk now coming in decidedly better than the first samples which were shown two weeks ago. Cocoon prices are firm and the cost of the new silk is about 100 Dollars over the price obtainable. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 1/11½, and Fcs. 2.50½ per Dollar:—

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—The decline in price continues, stocks having accumulated. Quotations for Formosa are: \$92.50 to \$93.00; sales 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—The holders stand firm and the prices are going up a little. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$7.70 to \$7.75	pel.
do. " 2, White.....	7.10 to 7.15	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.30 to 5.35	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.15 to 5.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.80 to 7.85	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.15 to 7.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.15 to 5.20	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.05 to 5.10	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.75 to 11.80	"
Shekloong "	9.85 to 9.90	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per German steamer *Weimar*, sailed on the 18th April. For Genoa.—280 bales raw silk, 200 bales waste silk, 10 cases essential oil, and 3 cases chinaware. For Trieste.—100 bales rattan-shaving. For Antwerp.—557 bales split bamboo, 240 bales bamboo scraps, 100 boxes cassia, 14 bales rattan-core, 6 rolls matting, 4 cases chinaware, and 1 case cigars. For Antwerp opt. Hamburg.—96 bales feathers and 60 bales bamboo scraps. For Amsterdam.—63 cases furniture. For Rotterdam.—3 cases cigars. For London.—40 rolls mats, 20 cases bristles, and 1 case chinaware. For Bremen.—217 rolls matting. For Hamburg.—350 bales feathers, 54 rolls matting, 40 cases preserves, and 15 bales canes.

Per steamer *Machaon*, sailed on the 1st May. For London.—3,443 bales hemp, 360 bales canes, 200 bales rattanware, 200 bales waste silk,

1,773 rolls matting, 150 cases palm leaf fans, 72 cases Chinaware, 36 cases blackwoodware, 30 cases essential oil, 62 cases cigars, 6 cases feather dusters, 178 cases and 100 casks preserves, 90 packages shells, and 40 packages sundries. For London opt. Manchester.—97 bales waste silk. For London opt. Hamburg.—94 bales canes and 94 bales galangal. For Hamburg.—4 cases shells. For New York.—10 cases essential oil.

Per steamer *Ixion*, sailed on the 4th May. For Liverpool.—4,240 bales hemp, 50 bales matting, 1 case cigars, and 5 packages sundries. For Manchester.—100 bales waste silk and 2 cases cigars. For Glasgow.—1 case curios.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—Malwa.—At the commencement of the fortnight sales on a moderate scale were effected at the following rates, viz:—2 years old 920 to 930, 3 years 930 to 940, 4½ years 950. Market closes very quiet.

Bengal.—Rates fluctuated considerably during the interval, but we close with a quiet market. To-day's quotations are: New Patna \$950, New Benares \$975, and Old Patna \$1040—nominal.

Persian.—No change to report. Superior is quoted at \$900.

STOCK.

Patna	638	chests.
Benares	239	"
Malwa	5,45½	"
Persian	2,177½	"

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 19	965	1,050	930	1,030	880	910/940
May 21	965	1,050	930	1,030	880	910/940
May 22	965	1,050	930	1,030	880	910/940
May 23	965	1,050	930	1,030	880	910/940
May 24	950	1,040	975	1,030	880	910/950
May 25	950	1,040	975	1,030	880	910/950

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—Very small business put through. Market quiet and depressed. Stock, about 5,000 bales.

Bombay,	24.00 to 25.00	picul.
Kurrachee,	— to —	"
Bengal (New), Rangoon, {	23.25 to 25.00	"
and Dacca,		
Shanghai and Japanese, ..	26.00 to 26.50	"
Tuugchow and Ningpo,	26.00 to 26.50	"
Madras (Best.),	— to —	"
Sales: 200 bales.		

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 25th May.—More enquiry has been experienced during greater part of past fortnight, and holders have made some fair sales, particulars of which are noted below. No material improvement is noticeable in values, but on the other hand no further decline has taken place, although dealers throughout the interval have been bearing the market with persistent energy. The shortness of supplies alone has enabled importers to maintain last quotations. Our estimate of stocks shows a falling off, and, as late contracts have been practically fulfilled, still smaller receipts may be expected during the next few weeks. To meet actual wants, we are of opinion that dealers will shortly be compelled to place further orders, as the quantity of goods now coming forward for sale has fallen away to a comparatively small compass and is insufficient for requirements. We close quiet but steady, and on the whole there is a better feeling apparent in this market, and a steady general demand appears to be within measurable distance of resumption and a change for the better should not be far off.

The salient feature of the fortnight has been the revival in the enquiry of No. 12s. Buyers complain about the deterioration in quality of a hitherto superior favourite chop, and hence a great discrepancy is observable in prices of this count.

Local Manufacture.—No business has as yet been reported in the production of the Hongkong, S., W. and Dyeing Mills.

Japanese Yarn.—Has continued in the same steady request, and at the moment there is an excited demand. Spot stocks are exhausted and the bulk of sales given below are for June-July

delivery at prices which cannot now be repeated. Sales reported are some 1,430 bales of No. 20s, say 410 bales Kanegafuchi, 390 bales Sensu, and 470 bales Ashai at from \$103 to 104, and 170 bales Setasu at from \$104½ to \$105½, market closing strong.

Raw Cotton.—No large business has been reported except sales of two small parcels of best machine-ginned Bengal, say 45 bales at \$25 and 100 bales at \$23½, the latter being in the nature of a forced sale. Estimated unsold stock about 5000 bales. Market closing weak. Quotations are Bengal \$20 to 25, Rangoon \$18 to \$24 and China \$26 to 28.

Exchange on India has continued steady and closes strong to-day at Rs. 146½ for T/T, and Rs. 146½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½.

For the week ending 11th instant, the under-noted business is reported from Shanghai in Indian, Japanese and Local Spinings: viz:—

Indian.—Total Sales 4,296 bales, comprising 75 bales No. 6s, 2,009 bales No. 10s, 230 bales No. 12s, 475 bales No. 16s, and 1,423 bales No. 20s, prices showing an advance of half to one Tael and market closing strong. Estimated unsold stock 56,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales about 1,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 72½ to 74 for No. 16s, and Tls. 77½ to 78½ for No. 20s, prices showing an improvement of one Tael and market closing firm. Estimated unsold stock about 16,000 bales.

Local.—Very dull of sale; the only business reported being some 450 bales (packed) No. 10s, at from Tls. 68 to 71 and about 250 (unpacked) No. 14s, at Tls. 73½ and No. 16s, at from Tls. 74 to 73½, market closing dull and declining.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—The downward tendency continues, market being very weak. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.85 to 2.90
" Round, Good quality	3.15 to 3.20
" Long	3.30 to 3.35
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	3.15 to 3.20
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.30 to 3.35
" White	4.05 to 4.34
" Fine Cargo	4.25 to 1.00

COALS.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—Small sales at quotations. Large quantities of Japanese coal offering. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$26 ex ship
Australian	12.25 ex godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$11.00—ex godown
Milki Lump	8.00 to 8.50 nominal
Moji Lump	6.50 to 8.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double screened	11.50 to \$12 ex godown
Hongay Lump	8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50 — " "
Briquettes	14.60 — ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*:—1,150 bales No. 10 at \$87 to \$98, 700 bales No. 12 at \$93 to \$97, 150 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$98.50, 1,250 bales No. 20 at \$98 to 106. *Japanese Yarn*. 50 bales No. 16 at \$103, 50 bales No. 20 at \$105. *Grey Shirtings*.—2,500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.35, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.35. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces No. 3 at \$4.05.

Metals.—*Quicksilver*.—130 flasks at \$173.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	\$ 81.00 to \$108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24	116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32	129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42,	147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.	2.75 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.55 to 2.75
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 4.75
Fine "	5.00 to 7.75
Book-folds.	4.35 to 6.25
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.75 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ")	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ")	2.35 to 2.70
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.70 to 3.40
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.10 to 7.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs }	1.75 to 7.20
Brocade—Dyed	4.20 to 5.20
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.05
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 1.00 to 1.75	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.55 to 1.75	
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.70 to 10.30
Assorted	6.80 to 10.40
Camlets—Assorted	13.20 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted }	13.50 to 23.00
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.20 to 16.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	6.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 5.90 to —	
Swedish Bar	8.00 to —
Small Round Rod	6.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	7.25 to —
Wire 15/25	9.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 10.80 to —	
Australian	10.25 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —	
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 40.50 to —	
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 40.50 to —	
New Chop, 14/20 oz. — to —	
Composition Nails	62.50 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.50 to —
Tin	80.00 to —
Tin-Plates	8.00 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	7.10 to —
QUICKSILVER—	
Quicksilver	173.50 to —
Window Glass	6.50 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.86 to —

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—The market has ruled quiet during the week under review, although rates have remained steady and in some cases (especially in Banks) have improved considerably.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at 306, 308, 310, 311, 312, 315, 320 and 325 per cent. prem. for cash, closing with further buyers at 325 per cent. prem. Nationals, a few shares have been placed at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found small buyers at \$54. Unions have advanced to \$260 without sales, and close with rate, Cantons and Straits unchanged and without business. In the absence of local business quotations for the Northern Insurances are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—The market continues very dull with sellers of Hongkong and Chinas at quotations and no business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao have changed hands at \$30½ but close with sellers at that rate. Indos have found buyers at \$91 and \$91½, closing with sellers at the latter and buyers at the former rate. Douglasses continue on offer at \$49 without finding buyers. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—The market remains dull with no change in quotations or business to report.

MINING.—Punjoms have been quiet with only small unimportant sales at \$6.15 and \$6.25, market closing with sellers at \$6.25. Jebebus have ruled steady with buyers at \$12½ and sellers at \$1½. Queens, Olivers and Caledonians have all changed hands at quotations in unimportant lots. Raubs after further sales at \$51½ and \$52 suddenly jumped to \$60 with very few shares obtainable at the increased rate. Market closes steady at \$60.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have found small buyers at \$485 and close with sellers at \$490. Kowloon Wharfs remain unchanged with only a small business to report. Wanchais continue in demand without bringing any shares on the market.

LANDS HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled firm with sales at \$125½ and \$126 and close steady at the latter rate. Hotels have improved to \$120 with small sales and buyers. West Points after sale at \$49½ and \$49 are now on offer at \$49½. Humphreys have been placed at \$10.75, but close weak with sellers at that rate. Kowloon Lands remain on offer at quotations.

COTTONS.—No local business to report. Quotations are taken from the last Shanghai Circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have been placed at \$18½ and \$19 cum div. Green Islands at \$3½ and \$30½ cum, new issue closing with sellers at \$30½. Watsons at \$16. Electrics at \$11½ and \$12. Ices at \$166. China Providents at \$10 and \$9.90. Watkins at \$10½ and China Borneos at \$22 and \$23.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	325 p. ct. prem. = [531½]
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	\$27.
Foun. Shares...	28	\$27.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	21	\$1½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$16, buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	10	\$9.90, sellers
China Sugar	100	\$126.
Cotton Mills—		
Evo	Tls. 100	Tls. 65.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 62½.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 37.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$37, sellers
Dairy Farm	86	\$6½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	225	\$48.
Green Island Cement...	10	\$30½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	10	\$12, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	100	\$2.10, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	50	\$105, buyers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$119½, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	225	\$166.
Hongkong Rope	50	\$86½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	50	\$170.
Insurance—	\$125	485 p. ct. prem. = [731½]
Canton	50	\$130, buyers
China Fire	20	\$79, sellers
China Traders	25	\$54, buyers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$295, sellers
North-China	225	Tls. 165.
Straits	20	\$1.
Union	50	\$260, buyers
Yangtze	80	\$121, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	50	\$125½, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B	30	\$25½, sellers
West Point Building	50	\$48½, sellers
Luzons Sugar	100	\$36, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$300, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	83	50 cts., sales
Do. Preference	1	40 cts.
Jebebu	55	\$12.50, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd...	25c.	15 cts., buyers
Olivers Mines, A...	35	\$3½.
Do. B...	34½	\$3½.
Punjom	87	\$6½, sellers
Do. Preference...	1	\$1.30, sales
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$60, sellers
New Amoy Dock	86½	\$20½, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	50	\$100.
China Mutual Pref	210	210 10s.
China Ordinary	210	210 10s, sellers
Do.	25	25 5s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	50	\$49, sellers
H., Canton and M...	15	\$30½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$91, buyers
Shell Transportand	2100	\$300, buyers
Trading Co.		
Star Ferry	10	\$18, ex div.
Tebrau Planting Co...	85	\$5, sellers
Do.	83	\$3.
United Asbestos	24	\$8, sales
D.	10	\$11, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse...	337½	\$54, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	10	\$10½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$16.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 25th May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.46½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.00½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	3½ p. c. pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	2½ p. c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1½ p. c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	117½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	3 p. c. pm.
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ON SAIGON:

On demand	2½ p. c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK:

On demand	60
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate... 10.13

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael ... 52.75

BAR SILVER, per oz. ... 27½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Japan (str.), Patroclus (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Antenor (str.), Benlarij (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Salasia (str.), Hakata Maru (str.), Malaya (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Hamburg (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Idomeneus (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Friesberg (str.), Wittenberg (str.), Sarnia (str.), Sambia (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Goodwin (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of China (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Argyle (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), City of Rio de Janeiro (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Drummond (str.), Armenia (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Strathgyle (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Kasuga Maru (str.), Airlis (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Lightning (str.).

FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Miké Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

May—
 18, Minterne, British str., from Barry.
 19, Indus, French str., from Marseilles.
 19, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 19, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
 19, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
 19, Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
 20, Bamberg, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Redpole, British gunboat, from Shanghai.
 20, Fooksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 20, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
 20, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 21, Esmeralda, British str., from Iloilo.
 21, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
 21, Antenor, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, Drummond, British str., from Moji.
 21, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.
 21, Anna, Austrian str., from Wuhu.
 21, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 21, Trocas, British str., from Batoum.
 21, Idomeneus, British str., from Moji.
 21, Emma Luyken, German str., from Saigon.
 22, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 22, Jason, British str., from Penang.
 22, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
 22, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 22, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Passepartout, Norw. bk., from Freemantle.
 22, Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 23, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
 23, Faisang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 23, Kumsang, British str., from Singapore.
 23, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 23, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 23, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 23, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Trym, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
 23, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 23, Decima, German str., from Chefoo.
 23, Futami Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 23, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 23, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 24, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Rossall, British str., from Otaru.
 24, Choyang, British str., from Wuhu.
 24, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 24, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.
 24, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 24, Whampoa, British str., from Java.
 24, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 25, Takang, British str., from Wuhu.
 25, Zaire, Portuguese g-bt., from Macao.
 25, Clyde, British str., from London.
 25, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
 25, Ayr, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 25, Sultan Van Langkot, British str., from Pulo Sambo.

DEPARTURES.

May—
 18, Santa Cruz, Amr. sch., for Yap.
 19, Thistle, Australian bark, for Moodyville.
 19, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 19, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 19, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Yuko Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
 19, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 19, Indus, French str., for Shanghai.
 20, Fame, British torpedo boat, for Weihaiwei.
 20, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 19, Descartes, French cruiser, for Japan.
 20, Benvenue, British str., for Saigon.
 20, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
 20, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 20, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, Minterne, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 20, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
 20, Lady Joicey, British str., for Batavia.
 20, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 21, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
 21, Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

21, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Bamberg, German str., for Hamburg.
 22, India, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 22, Monmouthshire, British str., for Portland.
 22, Orlando, British cr., for Weihaiwei.
 22, Humber, British storeship, for Weihaiwei.
 22, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Antenor, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 22, Anna, Austrian str., for Canton.
 22, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Esang, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Ambria, German str., for Yokohama.
 23, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
 23, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Baltimore, Amr. cr., for Singapore.
 23, Taisang, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Trym, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 23, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
 23, Quarta, German str., for Hongay.
 24, Marie Jensen, German str., for Amoy.
 24, Hutton, British str., for Java.
 24, China, German str., for Singapore.
 24, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 24, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
 24, Yuko Maru, Japanese str., for Chefoo.
 24, Decima, German str., for Canton.
 24, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 24, Japan, British str., for London.
 25, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Y'hama.
 25, Royalist, British str., for Kobe.
 25, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Strathgyle, British str., for San Francisco.
 25, Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 25, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 25, Clyde, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Indus*, for Hongkong, from Bombay. Miss R. Maldovan, Mr. Caylor and infant. Mr. Ah. Fock; from Marseilles. Mr. Daral Hepworth, Mr. and Mrs. Pinto Lello; from Batavia. Mr. and Mrs. Ugo Cohen; from Singapore. Mr. Halchoff Pol. Count Hoyos, Mr. and Mrs. Vigers Beaufield. Mr. and Mrs. A. Codd, Mr. Ch. Shbringer, Lient. Hindley, Mr. Francisco da Maia, Messrs. Ch. Goette and Koch. Pol; from Saigon. E. Carolan; for Shanghai. from Marseilles, Messrs. Marel Briol, Prenyee, Hutchison, A. Harras, Matthieu, Lafrance, Maurin, Brassy John, R. P. Braendouck, Hubert, Rossignon, Magnanio, Mr. and Mrs. Maco Minagio; from Suez, Mr. Quertano; for Nagasaki, from Marseilles, Mr. Boysmann; from Bombay, Miss Kani; from Saigon, Miss Chauna; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mr. Dou, Mr. and Mrs. Shijemaku; for Yokohama, from Bombay, Mr. Komma; from Marseilles, Messrs. Naguchi and Salomone; from Colombo, Messrs. Robertson, Mersa Ali Riza and four children; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Celes de Vit, Messrs. Marcells, Fakao, E. Meyer and Lagard.
 Per *Kong Beng*, from Bangkok, Mr. Andrews.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Dr. and Mrs. Dalzire, Miss Watson and Mr. Simpson.
 Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. Campbell; from Shanghai, Messrs. George Brown, Schmidt and Albert and Miss Cassilda da Silva; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Madame Flandin and two children; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Kuichi, T. Inouye, C. Kamei, Matsudaiva, Miss Johnston, Messrs. Lacaze, F. Grosos, Fetznya Onda, Kuski Shimo, T. Tornita, M. Imanoske, I. Hosoi, T. Yamaguchi and Naganuma; from Nagasaki, Mr. Antoine Paul; from Shanghai, Madame Doppfeld; Mr. Ress, Miss Ress, Rev. Vertonnen, Messrs. John Henry Harper and John C. V. Detotson, R. P. Bertrand Gotheray and Mr. Coffiney.
 Per *Japan*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, Miss Thelluson, Messrs. Verming, Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Kenny and 3 children.
 Per *Esmeralda*, from Iloilo, &c., Mr. Vortich, Mrs. Vortich, Mr. Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and child, Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Mews.
 Per *Guthrie*, from Sydney, &c., Misses M. A. Empson and maid, B. C. Empson, and Ellis, Doctor H. D. Ellis, Rev. E. M. Ellis, Messrs. R.

W. Lomaz, G. Miller, D. Leckie, M. Ratty, Doctors C. P. Bagg, and High, Messrs. J. Woodworth, E. S. Ganzon, W. F. Canning, L. Keller, H. Mason, Mrs. Snahine, Mrs. Marien; for Kobe, Messrs. G. Cooke, L. Deane, Serrai and Tiylami.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. G. H. Taziro, Mrs. R. Tagawa, Mr. W. Shiratama; for Manila, Messrs. R. Kawachi and Mr. F. Kahukin; for Townsville, Mr. and Mrs. E. Walker, Mr. J. Naruno; for Sydney, Messrs. U. Jasuda, P. S. Sargood and K. Maima and Mrs. S. Okumura; for Melbourne, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. W. Hacker and Mr. O. Takahashi.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mrs. Rosada, Mrs. Negros, Mr. and Mrs. Junepez, Messrs. A. de Jesus, E. Peralta, M. Lianco, J. Banzon, C. de los Reyes, C. Lerna, P. Sizaro, D. Reyes, E. Espino, A. Keet and W. Strong.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Messrs. T. C. Coleman, J. D. Smith, F. Elmore, Mr. and Mrs. Laroche, Miss Laroche, Mr. H. Barreto, Miss Throgmorton, Mrs. Raynolds and maid, Mr. Samuel Rebarber, Misses Hutton and Miss J. Hutton.

Per *Kumsang*, from Singapore, Mr. Theodore Strauss, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra, Miss Ezra, Miss Judah, and 555 Chinese.

Per *Kamakura Maru*, from Singapore, Capt. and Mrs. I. M. Paterisson, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. L. St. Anbyn, Misses Anbyn and Mr. Perrin.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. F. Lammiert and Erneste.

DEPARTED.

Per *Indus*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Pereira, Messrs. J. E. Gibson, W. Schneider, R. Lyons, E. Bernheim, P. Ryves, Klancke, F. Gabrielli, Mr. and Mrs. Somekh, Miss Fleming, Miss C. d'Encarnacao, Capt. A. Tillett, Mrs. C. Goodman, Mrs. Marchand; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Freemann and E. Leonard; for Kobe, Messrs. A. S. F. Vermont, A. C. Hardouin, H. W. Andrews, C. G. Tailleux and E. N. Tailleux; for Yokohama, Mr. C. H. W. Kew, Mrs. Rothman and child.

Per *Diamante*, from Hongkong for Manila, Mrs. J. M. Jenks, Mrs. Newall, Miss Delroy, Miss Leslie, Miss Leta, Miss Bell, Mr. J. Bell, Sr., Mr. H. Abrahams, Mr. Ford, Mr. Lewzey, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. J. Bell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Germann, Mr. N. K. Davidson, Miss Numm, Messrs. Philips, Vallance, Munro, Shront and J. P. Ferroll, Mrs. Philips, Miss Hetty Peel, Messrs. Cohen, Schnell, K. Engelskjøn, L. Long, M. S. da Souza, Mrs. L. R. Hawley, Mrs. J. W. Billings, Mr. and Mrs. Romero Solas and family, Commander Cowie, U.S.N., Mrs. Cowie, Lt. G. T. Merrill, Major P. F. Strand, Messrs. James I. Roach, U.S.N., Manuel Longos, Emilio G. Corea, J. Brown, C. Goette, R. J. Kennedy, Simpson, Villejas and C. Petsold.

Per *Oceanien*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Messrs. L. Moines and E. Jakobsen; for Singapore, Messrs. W. G. Bell, Z. S. I. Baronian and F. Bonnet, Mr. and Mrs. L. Goldenberg; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Cummock; for Marseilles, Mrs. Charpentier, Lieut. F. Freitas da Silva, Messrs. F. Bennett, Crepier, J. Barlow, H. Scherem, M. P. Fernandes, L. Fernandes, J. Gonsalves, J. M. d'Oliveira, C. N. da Silva, O. Ottensen and M. Fredriksen.

Per *Doric*, for Shanghai, Messrs. M. Tackey, J. Rosenfeld, A. Dehdashty, H. W. Colie, John Marshal, Mrs. C. H. Marshall; for Kobe, Misses A. and B. Empson and maid (Miss Vorbach) and Messrs. W. Bair, W. Thomas, and A. J. Hughes; for Yokohama, Messrs. L. Deane, W. E. G. High and F. J. Muller; for San Francisco, Miss J. Watson, Messrs. J. N. Boyd, G. Miller, Mrs. A. J. Gilmore, Col. Fraser, R. A., Mrs. N. Vaughan, Mrs. A. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Fulton and infant, Master Harold W. Fulton, Master Ralph W. Fulton, Master G. Fulton, Mr. W. S. Craig; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Banfield, and Mr. Joseph Roder, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cadd; for Honolulu, Mr. John Martin.

Per *Loongsang*, Messrs. H. D. Wolfe, I. Dorwell Hepworth, Samuel Ribarber, H. Lewis and S. Encarnacion.

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